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Stuff

₹100 September 2015
stuff.tv/in

WHAT'S NEXT

India



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EDGES
FORWARD**

SAMSUNG'S NEW
FLAGSHIP COULD
BE ITS BEST YET

**GAMING
ON THE
LIMIT**



MSI GT80 TITAN
PROVES TO BE
INDIA'S FASTEST

THE GREATEST GAMES OF THE NEXT 12 MONTHS

PREPARE TO PLAY

STAR WARS: BATTLEFRONT **NO MAN'S SKY**
UNCHARTED **DOOM** **FALLOUT 4**



REVIEWS PHANTOM 3 DRONE **ONEPLUS 2 SMARTPHONE** WINDOWS 10 OS

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WELCOME



While Google is investing heavily in life-prolonging genetics, Samsung has mastered the art of condensing a lifetime into half a decade. From introducing us to the phablet genre with the original Galaxy Note to the newest **S6 Edge+**, the last five years have seen more flagships from this brand than Apple's product portfolio. They might be on to something though, because the dual-edge display is something of a revelation and indeed an addiction once you get used to it. Our exclusive preview on p06 will perhaps bring you a step closer to getting a hands-on.

If you're more easily hooked on to the virtual life, our feature on the **biggest games** to look forward to this season, on p40, will keep you primed. *Uncharted 4*, *RockBand 4*, *Assassin's Creed Syndicate*, *Forza Motorsport 6* and more are set to take over your gaming consoles or PC rig. Speaking of which, our exclusive test of the **MSI GT80 Titan** on p58 is a real scorcher. The biggest and probably the most accomplished laptop to have ever sat on our laps, if we may superfluously add. It's the world's first laptop with a full mechanical keyboard, first with a twin-mode trackpad and probably the first to give you hernia after an extended gaming session. But for all its mammoth 18.4in screen size and 4.5kg heft, it is the most serious off-the-shelf laptop you can currently buy.

Start browsing and stop saving. It's not the best advice you'll ever get, but hey, you're not reading Investor's Journal, are you?

Nishant Padhiar, Editor / nishant@haymarketsac.com / twitter.com/nishantpadhiar

OUR LOGOS EXPLAINED...

The bearer of this accolade has gone up against its peer(s) and emerged victorious.



A gadget sporting this badge is a five-star product, and the one we would buy, if we were us.



...and a word about prices

Generally, we show the manufacturer's recommended price. Two exceptions:

- **Asterisk marked prices (*)** are indicative prices and subject to change depending on geographic location.
- All prices in the **Top 10s** are the best we could find at the time of printing.



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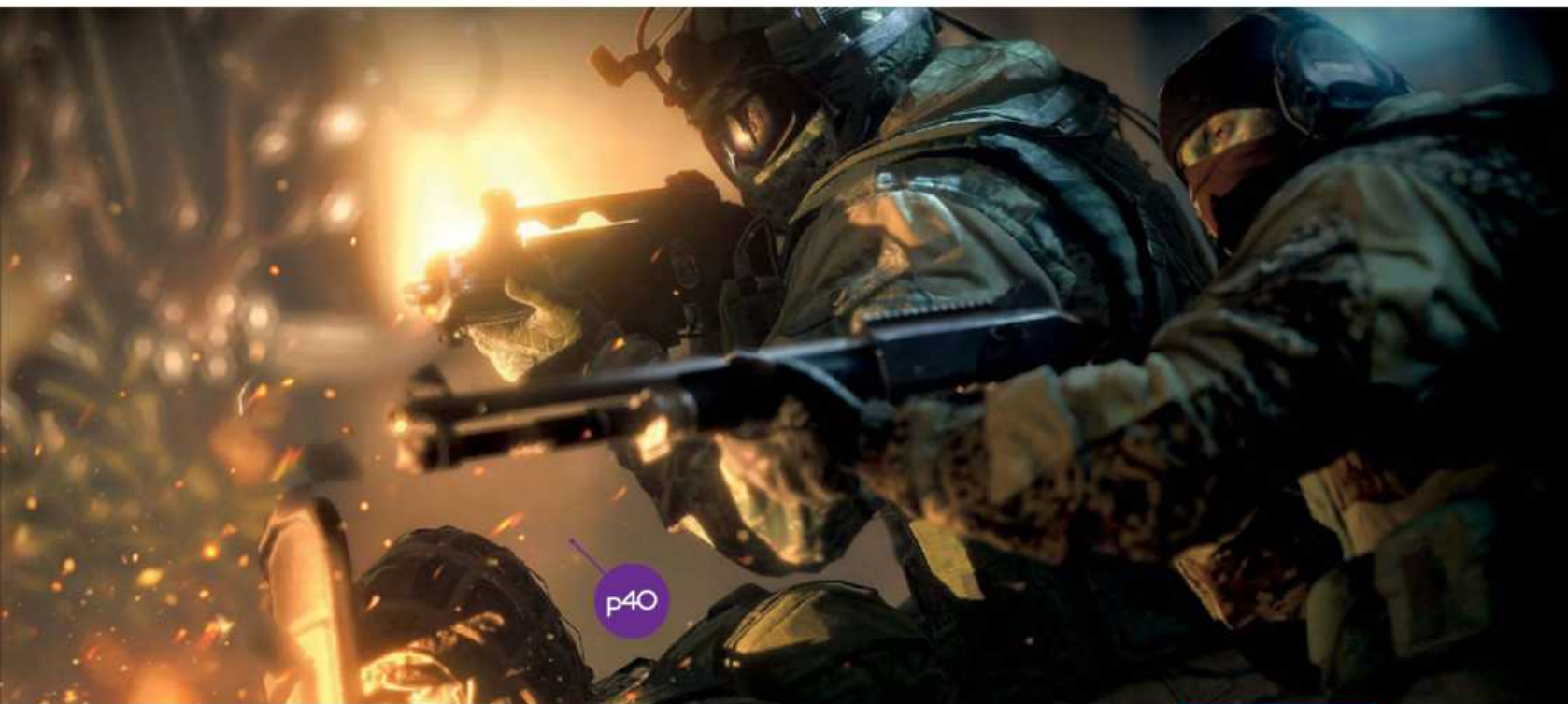
Stuff flies with the new king of drones



09.15

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FOR BIG SAVINGS OFF
THE NEWSSTAND PRICE!

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TOP 10 OF EVERYTHING

Looking to buy something but need a bit of advice? Turn to our *Stuff* Top Tens: our expert listings of all gadgetry, from **p85**



Bowers & Wilkins T7
★★★★★
Best of the
Bluetooth Speakers
p89



H O T S T

**HOT
FOUR
#1**

**BIGGER,
BETTER,
EDGIER**

**Samsung Galaxy
S6 Edge+**

We have trouble with the concept 'too much of a good thing', a shortcoming that has landed us in an emergency room more than once. Fortunately, Samsung shares our exuberance and so it is that we now have a bigger version of the Galaxy S6 Edge. That means more of the glorious dual-edge 2K screen, now biggerised from 5.1in to 5.7in. A difference, remarkably, that leaves it no thicker than the normal S6 Edge, despite containing a bigger 3000mAh battery that can now, says Samsung, be fully charged in just 90 minutes. The octa-core Exynos processor from the S6 and S6 Edge is on duty in the Edge+, but the RAM has been increased from 3GB to 4GB. The cameras are also the same – 16MP and 5MP – but fun new features such as Periscope-style Live Broadcast and Video Collage liven up proceedings. The only point in which we're split on our 'more is better' philosophy is storage: the Edge+ will come only in 32GB or 64GB versions. Still, we'll happily eschew the 128GB option in favour of yet more of that amazing screen.

Ashot as... a 5.7in donut with 4GB of RAM
₹57,900 / samsung.com/in

**WHERE'S
MY NOTE 5?**

It's playing hard to get. A Note 5 was revealed along with the Edge+, with the same specs, but Samsung will bring it to India later. Meanwhile, there are hushed talks of another "big" device coming soon!



U

F

E

25 PAGES
OF THE BIGGEST
STORIES FROM
PLANET TECH



THAT'S THE WAY I SWIPE IT

In addition to People Edge for quick access to contacts, there's the new Apps Edge: a stack of app shortcuts along the side. Swipe in from the edge once for People, twice for Apps. Handy.

JUST MY TYPE

This clip-on keyboard cover was a... surprise, but a wiser spend might be the wireless charger. Samsung says it can charge in two hours—just 30 minutes slower than the plug.



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HOT
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#2

BLACK IS BACK

MVMT Chrono All Black

That must be an expensive watch, you think to yourself. We did just that as we peered at the exquisite chronograph from a company you may have never heard of. Custom gun metal markers and hands add a touch of evil on the inside and the 22 mm black stainless steel band, reminiscent of an object forged in Mount Doom, piles on the pressure on the outside. The Chrono All Black is a beautifully built watch that you have to wear to believe. It is advanced sorcery at a throwaway price. Pick it up before it disappears into the depths.

Ashot as... Barbecuing meat on flowing lava
₹9140* / mvmtwatches.com



WRIST TALK
@yatish_suvarna

MVMT is one brand that offers sublimely crafted watches for a ridiculously low price. I can vouch for that after using one for weeks. The Chrono All Black looks wicked on the wrist and the build and finish is so good, you wouldn't want to take it off at all. The layers of black and the way the crown and the push buttons are designed make it hard for you to take your eyes off it.

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HOT
FOUR
#3WORTH EVERY
STROKE

MV Agusta F4

Nope, we aren't going to judge you for squealing uncontrollably, you may do as you please, just come back when you're done. Oh! Done already? That was quick, but then, so is this bike. And that's all thanks to an advanced four-cylinder 'short-stroke' engine that powers the entire F4 range of these sexy beauties. It's got specs that can put even the *Tron* bikes to shame. The piston blanks are hard-anodized, making them as durable and reliable as a fusion reactor built by Tony Stark himself. The con rods on the F4 RR are made of titanium, a solution more akin to a GP racer than a production machine. The short-stroke in-line four-cylinder engine is available in two power configurations: on the F4 it reaches 195hp, while the F4 RR puts out a jaw-dropping 200.8hp. What does that mean?

This bike is fast and will kill you. But as Shakespeare said "The stroke of death is as a lover's pinch, which hurts and is desired."

As hot as... Shakespeare in the Iron Man suit riding the F4 over lava.

[tba / mvagusta.com](http://tba/mvagusta.com)





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HOT
FOUR
#4BAVARIAN
BRAWLER

BMW Concept M4 GTS

The tinker bell engineers in BMW's attic founded the M division back in 1972, but this may be the most extreme of their tinkering. Armed with more but packed with less, it is an exercise in weight reduction along with power increase. Yes, the standard M4 just isn't husky enough if you haven't noticed already. Using carbon fibre extensively keeps the weight in check while technology used in the MotoGP Safety Car has made its way to the M4 GTS in the form of water injection.

This allows for more output and more torque, two things we've known to make cars go faster. There's also generous use of OLED for the front and tail lights along with a paint job that sounds equally sinister – Frozen Dark Grey Metallic. The front splitter and the gigantic rear wing can be manually adjusted to squeeze out maximum performance on a given track or make it more pliant for public roads. Regardless of the aerodynamics, this thing looks ready to bite your head off and no one can save you except your reflexes.

Ashot as... angels with carbon fibre wings.

[tina / www.bmw.in](http://tina/www.bmw.in)



CAN'T TELL THE M4 FROM THE M4 GTS? LOOK FOR THESE DIFFERENCES AT THE TRAFFIC LIGHTS



OH, LED.

Unlike LED lighting which is point source, OLED is a full-surface illumination system and BMW has used it to create a whole new look to the lighting elements, especially the tail lights in darkness.



SIZE ME UP

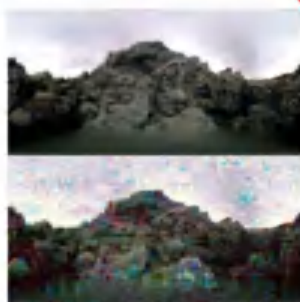
Shod with staggered tyre sizes, the M4 GTS wears 265/35 R19 rubber at the front and 285/30 R20 at the rear.

The Acid Orange accent ensures it screams even when parked.



GIGAPIXEL

The bigger picture in tech



A MACHINE GOES MAD

Humans love pattern recognition. It's how we learn to read and recognise. You can turn a tiger upside-down and put it in a hat, and we'll still spot it as a tiger. Also a prime selfie opportunity. But a side effect is that we generate patterns where there are none — "That aubergine looks like Billie Piper!" — and now Google's image recognition AIs have been shown doing the same. Trained by experience to define shapes as dogs or faces, just as children do, the AI will begin to see them in any image if it's given enough goes. A bit like a human staring at some clouds, or an android dreaming of electric sheep.

NEWS FEED


**TOOT! TOOT!
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For ₹199, your laziness gets a boost from Moto, whose Moto Express service (011-41717124) aims to fix all your Motorola smartphone woes, right at your doorstep. Available only in Delhi, Gurgaon and Noida at the moment.


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Fixed lens footsoldier

CANON POWERSHOT G3X

The compact camera is dead! Or so they say, because happy snappers are using phones, amateurs are using lens-swappy system cameras and pros are still using DSLRs. If anything can claw compacts away from the whistling edge of death's scythe, they say, it's the 1.0-type sensor. (It's nearly an inch across, so some people call it a 1in sensor, but other [more pedantic] people prefer '1.0-type'.) Either way, it's bigger than a normal compact's sensor, and so, can take much better photos. This new Canon is equipped with just such a sensor and a handy 24-600mm zoom lens to take advantage of it. It's got a serious face (and price tag), but that's because it has a whole camera market to save. But wait, Sony wants to help...

₹59,995 / canon.co.in



Superzoom special forces

SONY RX10 II

"Trumpety-parp!" is the battle-horn sound of Sony rallying to the cause of compact cameras. A tinkle in the background is the pedant's xylophone indicating that Sony also uses the not-quite-an-inch '1.0-type' sensor, while curses from the infantry indicate that they've just seen the price. "How can that possibly be justified?" is the pre-watershed gist, referring to how ₹95k gets you a lot of system camera or a pretty decent DSLR. The answer is the sensor again: a new 1.0-type stacked Exmor RS CMOS chip. Fancy processing and DRAM memory give it such skills as super-slow-motion 1000fps video, or 14fps continuous shooting. Coupled with its 16x zoom f2.8 lens and 2.3MP electronic viewfinder, the RX10 II might be just the sort of champion this cause needs.

₹94,990 / sony.co.in







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THE CHOICE OF CHAMPIONS

RETROGRAPHY

Fujifilm Instax Wide 300

₹9550 / fujifilm.in



Seriously fun!

Fill-flash and a tripod mount mark out the Instax Wide 300 as more than just a toy for the party-goer

Just what on earth is Fujifilm playing at? An instant camera in this age of selfie-happy phones? Colour us intrigued!

● Party animal

Whip out the Instax Wide 300 at a party and you'll probably get more attention than a Bollywood star dressed like a space pirate. Don't be surprised. In this age of diminutive phone cameras, an instant film camera - especially one this size - really stands out.

● Gimme a wide smile

You know what's the best thing about the Instax Wide 300? The 86mm x 108mm film. Pretty much

double the width of other instant film, and it's wide enough to capture your entire gang without having to ask people to squeeze together like sardines in rush hour.

● Instant Karma

We reckon our hipster pals are being silly with their non-stop whining about digital cameras and smartphones killing off the charm of photography. What's that? You agree with them? Then you'll love loading up the Wide 300 with Instax Wide film. Why? Imagine yourself at a cafe serving artisanal cakes. And then you pull out your Instax camera to get instant prints of your fixie-bike loving pals while they gasp in amazement...

● Hocus-pocus focus

The included close-up lens lets you focus on objects as close as 40cm away. Meanwhile, the two-zone focus switching means quick shooting, whether you're capturing your pals or the mountains far away in the background.

● More than a party trick

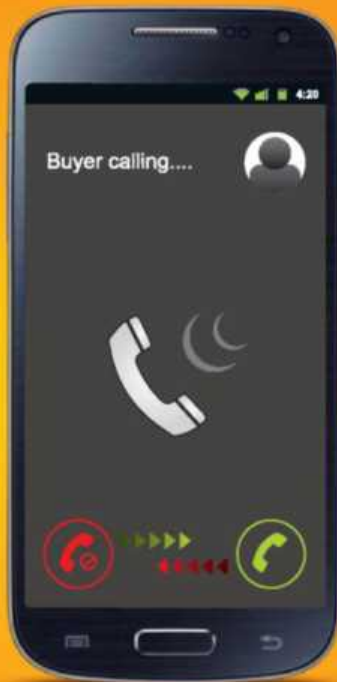
Instant camera it might be, but Fujifilm's given the Wide 300 some nifty features that save it from becoming a party trick you'll soon get bored of. There's fill-flash, a tripod socket, a 1/64 - 1/200 sec exposure range, and yup, even easy exposure compensation and an optical viewfinder. A retro-cam with modern features? Nice!

AN INSTANT FILM CAMERA MIGHT SOUND LIKE AN ANACHRONISM, BUT IT'S JUST THE TICKET FOR LIVENING UP ANY BOOZY PARTY

GREAT DEALS ON USED MOBILES, HAPPEN ON OLX.

“ I'm from Mumbai and doing my post-graduation here. One day while I was browsing the web I came across an OLX ad. I wanted to sell my one year old phone and a gaming console I'd had for a few years, so I gave it a try and put up an ad on OLX. My phone started ringing within hours of putting up the ad. I zeroed down on one person who wanted to buy the gaming console for his son and also needed to buy a mobile for himself. The mobile was in good condition and I got Rs. 2000 more for it than what the mobile shops were offering. The best thing about the transaction was that other than going off smoothly, I managed to sell both the things at a price I preferred. I was thrilled to get such amazing value for my used things. Selling through OLX was a great experience. ”

Anuj Nath - Mumbai



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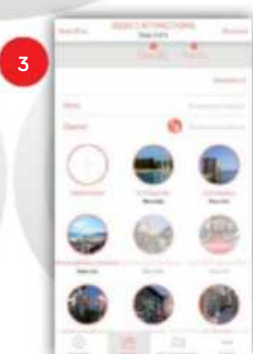
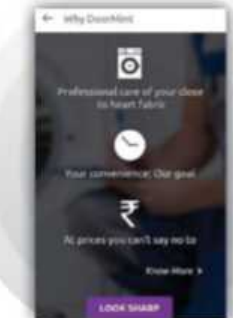
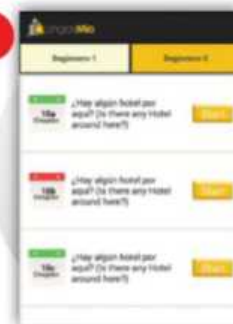
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Bech de

↓ APPS

This month's mobile must-downloads



1 Ditto TV

₹free / Android, iOS

Taking broadcast TV to a whole new level, ditto TV offers 150 channels across 13 languages. It has also found a place in the Limca Book of Records and offers live broadcasts from 13 famous temples. Indian moms approve.

4 Veooz

₹free / Android, iOS

Tired of certain news presenter's constant yakking? Shut them old gits up and download this app instead. Sure, it isn't as entertaining as them shouting like rabid penguins abandoned in the desert, but it does provide you with the news.

7 Lingos Mio

₹free / Android

Did you know Salsa is Caribbean? Doesn't matter anyway because you don't know how to speak in Spanish. What? You want to learn? Yes, yes, this app will help you learn how to speak in Spanish. You'll just have to figure the dance out yourself.

2 Zopper

₹free / Android

Flipkart still sending rocks? (Yes, we know this joke is as old as a, wait for it, ROCK!). Okay, enough of it now. Anyway, get Zopper and you can buy or exchange your old stuff you didn't need to get new stuff you don't need.

5 Fashionara

₹free / Android

Remember that annoying song *Sayonara Sayonara*? Fashionara is inspired by that annoying tune. But it's not as annoying as it sounds. It offers the regular sale, the latest fashion trends and all that jazz. Sing it now, Fashionara, Fashionara...

8 DoorMint

₹free / Android, iOS

Need an electrician, plumber, carpenter, appliance repair guy, laundry, pest control? DoorMint has you covered. It's only available in Mumbai though. If you live in other cities, too bad, get that dusty Yellow Pages out, bugger.

3 Trip Plans

₹free / iOS

Planning a trip to Timbuktu but don't know what to do? Allow Trip Plans to make life easier for you. You can book your hotels and discover the best travel attractions. There are maps too, in case you get lost in the wilderness of Timbuktu.

6 Voonik

from ₹free / Android

As if Myntra and Flipkart weren't enough, here's another app for the avid shoppers. You get instant alerts about offers, you can create lovelists (fancy name for a wishlist) and chat with other friends who are shopping. No walking required.

9 Astrospeak

₹free / Android, iOS

As if the entire Radhe Ma fiasco wasn't enough, now there's this app that helps calculate your love quotient, compare sun signs (yes, that's a thing) and offer instant "expert" advice. Why? Because screw science and logic. That's why.

APP SPOTLIGHT FOYR

₹free / Android

Interior decorators are these little minions that come into your home, listen to your jibber-jabber, secretly laugh at your design plans and then do something to the house you don't want and take all your money away. Sad. But with Foyr, there's hope. It showcases 150+ exquisite room designs, an inventory of 2000+ products, and also enables a 3D panoramic view (360° view with rotation) of the rooms. Away with the architects.

OAKLEY JAWBREAKER

from US\$200 / oakley.com

Oh, they're all broken.

No, they're just mid-lens-change reveal. Imagine them revolving, opening. Hear the strains of *The Blue Danube* in the background. Gasp as the artificial lens-flare suddenly strikes you; it lights up the questions in your eyes. Why such a complex mechanism? Can they justify this amount of drama? These, and more questions, will be answered in the next three columns. But not just by us.

If not you then, by God, whom?

Only by cycling superstar and Isle of Man man, Mark Cavendish! He's been a collaborator on the Jawbreaker design. And while Cav's normally fairly quick, these new specs have been two years in the making. Over 100 different iterations of the design were tried, using up 9600 man-hours of fettling and testing. These are not a fashion item — the Jawbreaker is about function.

Cav? Eep! What should I ask?

Well, don't ask him about how long they took to make, because we've already covered that. Ask him about the lenses. That'd be good. Because then he can tell you about how they used eye-tracking hardware to measure where a cyclist's eyes go, and then fine-tuned the optics in the lenses to work best in those areas. That's as relevant to a commuter as it is to an elite racer.

OK, yeah, I'll ask him about that...

Oh, he's gone now. Professional cyclists-cum-specs-execs don't have time to wait around for you to gather your wits. Shame — he was itching to tell you how the Jawbreaker's arms adjust to fit your helmet. Frame finishes include one flecked with 'Cavendish green' in a nod to Cav's many green jerseys for sprinting, and a Tour de France edition if you're more of a General Classification rider.



EYE-TRACKING
TECH MEASURED
WHERE CYCLISTS'
EYES GO, THEN
OAKLEY FINE-
TUNED THE LENSES
IN THOSE AREAS



Bech de

GREAT DEALS
ON USED MOBILES,
HAPPEN ON OLX.





Santa's early this year MEIZU MX5

Are you one of those fussy gadget lovers who can never make up their mind about which phone to buy next 'cos there's nothing that's got everything? You might be in luck, as the chaps at Meizu have something you'll like. Mediatek's 64-bit Helio X10 processor and 3GB RAM should give the new MX5 enough oomph, while there's a Full-HD AMOLED screen paired with a massive, 3150mAh battery. What else? How about a fingerprint scanner, a 20.7MP camera, 4G, and dual-band Wi-Fi... Like it? That's what we thought! Now to wait for the price

₹tba / meizu.com

Tekken that, gamers!

QUANTUM USB GAME PAD

Turbo mode, twin 3D joysticks, dedicated fire buttons, vibration feedback, rubber grips, a contoured design, and a choice of 4 colours... Nope, we aren't talking about the latest, greatest console and its fancy controller. But then, do you need a console anyway if you've got a gaming PC paired with Quantum's 7487-2V game pad? Okay, we didn't mean to light a fire under all you console fans, but we gotta admit, this game pad's just what you need for a night of console-style gaming on your trusty PC.

₹475 / qhmpl.com



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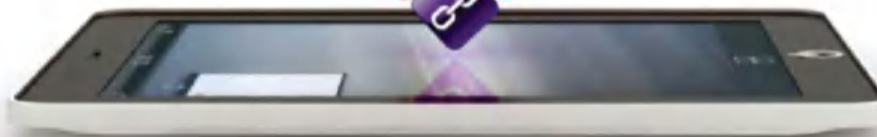


Outstanding performance from 64-bit octa-core CPU

Vivid, fluid and responsive display

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Extreme speed and connectivity



Computing

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- ▶ Imagination PowerVR Rogue Graphics Core
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Multimedia

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 - FDD/TDD LTE R9 Cat-4 (150Mbps/50Mbps)
 - DC-HSPA+ R8 (42Mbps/11Mbps)/TD-SCDMA Rel.7 (2.8/2.2 Mbps)
- ▶ Support Wi-Fi 11ac/BT/FM/GPS/Glonass/Beidou/ANT+

APPLE MUSIC WORTH DITCHING THE OTHERS?



ONE

ITS PLAYLISTS DO HAVE A HUMAN TOUCH

At the middle of Apple's aluminium-framed iRobot, locked in the White Room, it seems there really is the beating heart of a human. We were pretty sceptical of Apple's claims that algorithmic playlists are a bit rubbish, and that real people would be at the core of Apple Music, but it turns out they may have a point. We've already spent a ludicrous amount of time delving into playlists based around things we like, and they're full of greatness.

TWO

BEATS 1 RADIO IS ACTUALLY QUITE GOOD

Unsurprisingly, Apple apes other services with radio stations based on artist or genre. But its ace card is Beats 1, a worldwide 24/7 station with actual living DJs. So far it seems pretty decent, offering a fairly diverse selection of tunes between mainstream and indie. It also might turn some people on to radio, if they can stop complaining on Twitter that people are "stupidly talking all over the music". Just like they do on radio.

THREE

IT'S CLEVER AT MERGING YOUR MUSIC

Apple is a big fan of sucking you into its ecosystem. It rather cunningly did this with iTunes Match (which, like Google Play, mirrored your old ripped CDs in the cloud). Now, Apple Music happily merges what's in your iTunes app with what's on the iTunes Store. This works across Macs and iOS devices, and makes Spotify's desktop-only optional inclusion of local content look a little rudimentary.

FOUR

IT'S A SKINFLINT'S PARADISE

When you sign up, you get three months for free. Frankly, we reckon the 30 days you get with other services is pretty generous, but this is an entire summer of music, for nothing at all. And due to Taylor Swift suitably guilt-tripping Apple, artists will get paid and everything. So that's a win-win-win. If you are just cruising for free, don't forget to go into your account settings and disable the 'auto-renewal' switch.

...BUT

IT NEEDS A BETTER BITRATE

Apple's Eddy Cue cryptically tweeted that the music's bitrate "depends on whether you are on Wi-Fi or cellular". On 3G, we've found it bounces between merrily munching through data and being unuseable. On Wi-Fi, we suspect you're getting streamed versions of what's on iTunes (256 kbps AAC — comparable with Spotify's highest quality). But there's no manual control, and no Tidal-style lossless option.



Mobilize Your Workforce

GT500 LTE (4G) / TITAN7 / TITAN5

GT500 LTE (4G)

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- Pogo pin interface

TITAN7

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TITAN5

- 5.5" TFT color LCD 1280 x 720 HD resolution
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TITAN7 Accessories

TITAN5 Accessories



Thermal Printer

Desk Mount

Car Mount

Holster



Thermal Printer

Cradle

Docking

Holster

Data Capture

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Durability

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Node Watch

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Connectivity

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Features

Fully rugged form factor, IP-65 certified | Projected capacitive multi-touch panel with Corning® Gorilla® Glass compliant | High mobility with multiple-connectivity including WLAN, Bluetooth and WWAN | G-sensor, Gyroscope, Light sensor, E-compass, GPS navigation & Barometer | Field replaceable battery | MIL-STD-810G compliant | Built-in 1D barcode reader or 2D barcode reader | System access control via RFID/NFC reader.

THROW YOUR DRONE IN THE AIR, USE WITH CARE

Lily

US\$719 (until 15 August, then US\$1000) / lily.camera



Don't have your own camera-drone pilot? We do, and Lily is making him nervous

● **She's not the first.**

The first follow-me drone we saw, called AirDog, was successfully Kickstarted last year and lots of excited crowdfunders are perched on their doorsteps, awaiting delivery in a few months. But now a new auto-follow drone called Lily has arrived on the scene, promising more functionality, better looks and a lower price if you'll wait just a bit longer. Some of those perched pre-orderers are looking a little antsy.

● **She's a looker.**

Lily is distinctly more of a finished product than the GoPro-carrying AirDog. Eye-like lights display her status, and the camera is held in what looks disconcertingly like a mouth. Instead of the more traditional mechanical gimbal that drones like the DJI Inspire series use to steady their cameras, Lily has digital stabilisation: basically a big sensor that she crops into intelligently, taking 1080p video from the stable centre of the frame. There's 120fps shooting for you slow-mo fans, and at the push of a button on the remote she'll take a 12MP still. All is saved to the included microSD card.

● **You can run but you can't hide.**

Well, you can. Just go inside. But generally speaking, Lily will do her level best to keep you in the frame. Following app-inputted orders to keep you in front, to the side, or to loop around you, Lily will stray no further than 15m above or 30m away from you. She can fly at up to 25mph, ideally in light winds, and she can do that for 20 minutes. Which, frankly, is more than enough future video-editing work for one day, but two hours of charging will see you good to go again if you fluffed the run. The wrist remote has a microphone that will catch the expletives if and when you mess it up.

THE WRIST REMOTE HAS A MICROPHONE TO CATCH THE EXPLETIVES WHEN YOU MESS UP

TECH IS DEAD LONG LIVE TECH



From the people who launched the world's best-selling gadget magazine almost a decade ago, now comes another revolution.

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1

In-depth, no-nonsense breaking **news** for people who understand what technology is. Also for those who don't.

2

Everything you need to know, about everything you need to know. Drool-worthy **features** about more than just gadgets!



3

What worked. What didn't. What should've. **Reviews** crisper than fried chicken.

4

10 Phones. 10 Tablets.
10 Games. 10 Wearables.
Top 10 Everything.

Stuff

India
www.stuff.tv/in



Home Alone 6: The Indian Adventure MERLIN DIGITAL IROVER

The iRover is the gadget you've been waiting for since *Home Alone* hit the theatres back in the day. It's a rover with a camera attached on top. This camera sends back a live feed with capture and record options. You control the rover and the camera via Wi-Fi using a free app. Simple enough? The range of this baby is 15m and it'll chug along for 40 minutes on a single charge before giving up. We would use it to scare the cat and for fetching chips from the kitchen. Just saying.

₹4500 / merlin-digital.com



Your new phone Mr. Bond BLACKBERRY P9983

Are you sick of all the displays you have to touch? Are you tired of constantly prodding at glass to get things done? Do you find yourself reminiscing about the good old days of physical buttons? Well, not to sound like a tele-brands advert, but we have just the thing for you. Remember BlackBerry? The good lads from Canada have tied up with Porsche to bring a BB10 smartphone with a proper physical keyboard. Now, just get one of their cars as well and you're good to go.

₹99,990 / blackberry.com

The cobra's sting

BAUME ET MERCIER CAPELAND SHELBY COBRA

You can't be a car enthusiast if the words 'Carroll Shelby' don't perk your ears up. The man was a legend. Want to honour his memory? Pick something out from Baume et Mercier's Capeland Shelby Cobra collection. Stainless steel or 18K red gold case, a dial in Guardsman Blue, alligator leather straps, a sapphire back with Carroll Shelby's signature, and a second's hand with the Cobra logo. And the pièce de résistance – a miniature of Shelby's greatest creation – the 427 Cobra. Leaves a tear in our eye, it does.

₹por / baume-et-mercier.com



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Beautiful and brainy VIVO X5 PRO

This ain't your average grey slab of silicon. In fact, Vivo says the X5 Pro's made for users who want to make a style statement with their phone. So, you get a metal frame with '2.5D' curved glass sitting atop the 5.2in Super AMOLED, Full-HD screen. But there's substance behind all that style as well: a 64-bit chip, 2GB RAM, 13MP main camera, 8MP front camera, and 16GB storage (expandable by a massive 128GB). It's got the looks, it's got the brains. We're in love.

₹27,980 / vivoglobal.in



A call to arms DELL VENUE 7 3741

Where's that one-device-to-rule-'em-all? Last we checked, we were still lugging around a laptop, a phone, and a tablet... But looking at the Venue 7 3741, it seems like Dell's been listening. This 7in tablet has a meaty, 4100mAh battery, which should be plenty for even the most itinerant freelancer. And with a 3G SIM slotting inside, it offers on-the-go data and voice calling.

Pretty much everything you need for getting work done? Seems like the right time to tell the boss we'll be gone for the rest of the day...

₹7999 / dell.co.in



We'd take this over a medal OMEGA SEAMASTER BULLHEAD RIO

There's just a year to go for the Rio Olympics, so what's the best way to celebrate? Well, for one, you could walk around with Omega's Seamaster Bullhead Rio special edition strapped to your wrist. The blue leather strap with coloured stitching, the Rio 2016 logo and the central chronograph seconds hand should make it clear you're the kind of chap who loves sport.

Not that the distinctive 'Bullhead' case isn't reason enough to get it! But hurry, as Omega's making just 316 pieces of this special edition watch.

₹tba / omegawatches.com



Eventhough we like to keep our voices down with a sleek and simplistic design, you can still make a splash with a TRUNK sleeve. Dress-up your Mac® in whatever color you like and make everyday life more enjoyable.

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Spin the world, not your self RICOH THETA M15

Please keep your paltry apps and 'panoramic shot' features. You're not going to find us pivoting about while trying to click a unique pic. We're lazy *and* smart for a reason. That's why we leave tasks like this to the more-than-capable Theta m15 'spherical' camera from Ricoh. Check out the fish-lens type of dual cameras mounted on each side that capture 360-degree images. And since it also syncs with its app, the Ricoh Theta, you can click images from reasonable distances without holding it. Told ya! Lazy and smart – that's how we roll.

₹34,770 / ricoh.co.in



Smart-remote-phone? KARBONN MACH FIVE

Heh heh! See what we did there? The whole 'smart-remote-phone' bit was pretty clever, what? Why are you still puzzled? It's clear as daylight. The Mach Five is a smartphone with (wait for it) a universal remote control app that enables you to control household goods that employ remotes working on infrared rays. Thus, it's a 'smart-remote-phone'. Yea, yea it's got the usual 1GB RAM, 16GB memory, 1.3GHz Quad Core chip with a 5in HD screen and all that. Sheesh! Tough crowd.

₹5999 / amazon.in



Lord of all he surveys

BREITLING BENTLEY B06 S

What do you get yourself when you've already got your dream car sitting in the garage? How about a watch that reminds you of your 'ride' even when you're doing something as mundane as firing your stockbroker? That's what the Breitling Bentley B06 S is all about. The bezel features a knurled pattern inspired by the radiator grille from a Bentley, there's a '30-second chronograph' for more accurate lap-tracking at Goodwood, and a variable tachymeter that's ideal for planning your road trip to your vacation home in Monte Carlo.

₹tba / breitling.com



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It's a slam dunk

NIKE NBA JORDAN SUPER FLY 3 PO

Wanna fly high like Michael Jordan? Well, should have listened to your mum and eaten them 'orrible veggies. But even if you grew up on a diet of sugary candy, Nike's Jordan Super Fly 3 PO might help you fly like 'His Airness' himself. FlightPlate technology and a Flight Web system keep you stable when going for that slam dunk, a wave-bone rubber outsole lets you run like a scalded cat, while Zoom

Air pods keep you comfy and safe with plenty of rebound cushioning. So who's up for a quick game?

₹tba / nbastore.in

Razzle dazzle techie snazzle

OPPO MIRROR 5

While a hearty 5in display smartphone with features like a 1.2GHz Quad Core Qualcomm Snapdragon grey matter with a 2GB RAM and 16GB memory and seem apt for this price range, it simply isn't enough. You need the pizzaz, the panache, so to speak. The Oppo Mirror 5 shines brilliantly in this regard with a unique diamond-reminiscent mirror surface on the back. Individual cut-glass segments with different reflecting properties definitely make this one a looker. Just point the 8MP rear camera at someone for a pic and you can forget the cheese bit. Tech up, in style.

₹15,990 / oppomobile.in



Made for lawn loungin'

TP-LINK TL-WA860RE

Sitting in the lawn, sipping a cold one and streaming movies over the net. That's the life. Unless your router's got the range of an electric car from the 1980s. In which case, it's less lounging about and more gnashing of teeth. Sounds familiar? Then get the TL-WA860RE Wi-Fi range extender. Plug it into a power socket and get rid of those pesky dead zones that destroy your weekend routine. And with power pass-through, you can even plug in your laptop charger for hours upon hours of lazy movie fun.

₹tba / tp-link.in

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PS4

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GAMES
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The Italian Job 2?

MINI COUNTRYMAN

BMW's sister brand has been around for a few years, but have you ever wondered why the perfect city car is all but absent from our city roads? Off the top of our heads? The frightening price tag and impracticality. Well, the powers that be have decided that we deserve a break. The new Mini Countryman has been given a thoroughly modern makeover that includes a hexagonal grille, redesigned bumpers, LED fog lights, large 17in wheels and the usual smattering of Mini quirkiness. Oh, and it's cheaper now. Cheers, my dear.

₹36,50,000 / mini.in

QUICKTEST

Asus Zenfone 2 Laser

₹9999 / asus.com/in

With its 4GB RAM, the original Zenfone 2 was the best thing that ever happened to heavy multitaskers. Since then, the Zenfone 2 line-up has expanded like the arms of a sprawling octopus. The baby of the family is the new Zenfone 2 Laser – with a 5.5in, 720p screen, 2GB RAM, 16GB storage (expandable), and of course, laser focus for the 13MP rear camera.

Dragons vs atoms

Out goes the Intel Atom chip, and in comes a Snapdragon 410. Still 64-bit, but with nowhere near the raw performance of the original, the Zenfone 2 Laser is not as good at multitasking as its more expensive cousins. Even then, with 2GB RAM and a 720p screen to work with, it's speedy enough that most 'average' users won't really care.

Laser accuracy on a budget

The 13MP rear camera comes with laser autofocus, making the Zenfone 2 Laser perhaps the lowest-priced device offering this



feature. And it does seem to help, with superfast focusing abilities. Unfortunately, the camera itself isn't any great shakes, being merely acceptable in daylight and quite poor in low-light conditions. Still, keeping the price in mind, it isn't all that bad.

Who's in charge here?

The power-efficient Qualcomm Snapdragon 410 might be slower than the Intel Atoms found in other Zenfones, but that's actually good news for the battery life – the Zenfone 2 Laser's 3000 mAh battery easily lasts the day instead of sending you scurrying around for a charger halfway through your lunch hour.

Sticky lollipops for you

The ZenUI interface (based on Android Lollipop) is quite the mixed bag. Heavily skinned, it won't win any design awards, but even then, has plenty of neat features you'll appreciate, especially given the Laser's humongous size: One-handed mode, double-tap to wake, and gesture-based app launch. You also get Asus' own suite of apps, some of which are pretty useful, while others seem plain unnecessary.

Competently average

The laser autofocus certainly brings improvements, even though the camera itself isn't all that good. Still, the Zenfone 2 Laser's specs and decent performance mark it out as about par for its end of the market.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Lacks outright oomph, but laser focus and a low price go some way in making amends

Rolling Stone

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Gentlemen,
let's retire to the drawing room
THE SAFARI BUTLER
BY FRAZER AND HAWS

You might be a silicon-age guru with more friends on Instagram than in real life, but you know what you really want – a slice of country life. Luckily, your pipe dreams can now be a reality! Even when you're sitting in a Gurgaon high-rise and not a Sussex mansion. All you need is the Safari Butler – two bronze deer, with candleholders in the antlers and glass tables balanced on their backs – just perfect for your nightcap as you wind down after a tough day at work!

₹1,499 / frazerandhaws.com



4G mass appeal
LENOVO A2010

What's that? You want a 4G-capable smartphone so that you too get a barrage of calls, from them over-cheery mobile network companies who enthusiastically waste your time in telling you just how many *irresistible* offers on 4G they have, just for you? And you're on a budget, eh? Then get the 4.5in display, dual SIM A2010 smartphone from Lenovo – with Android 5.0 Lollipop, 1GB RAM to go with a 1GHZ Quad Core chipset and the works. Don't you ever say we never listen to the common man.

₹4,990 / flipkart.com



Mecha-warrior
LOGITECH G310
ATLAS DAWN KEYBOARD

Serious about your gaming? Then turn your attention to this mechanical keyboard and marvel over its super-speedy Romer-G switches that boast of an astounding durability of 70 million keystrokes. And you're bound to love the backlighting that bathes everything in a soothing, Matrix-y glow, the compact design which means you're the first to get unpacked at LAN parties, and of course, the uber-neat Arx Control app, which uses your phone to display in-game info. A mere keyboard? Nope, it's more a party trick to make your friends envious of you.

₹8,795 / gaming.logitech.com

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TWELVE EXTRA LIVES

Explore a mutant-infested America, make your own Mario world and conquer an almost endless universe... you'll do all of this and more in the best 12 games of the next 12 months

HOTLY ANTICIPATED INDIES



Inside

This hails from the studio behind 2010's marvellous side-scroller *Limbo*, which is enough to get us interested. The mysterious teaser trailer oozes both style and a sense of dread. And what's inside that vat at the end? It should be a memorable journey.



The Witness

Braid remains one of the gold standard indies of the past few years, and creator Jonathan Blow has since been crafting this miraculously beautiful first-person puzzler. *The Witness* finds you exploring a stunning island covered with puzzles, mazes, and audio bits for you to decipher.



Mighty No. 9

It looks like *Mega Man*, plays like *Mega Man*, and comes from the creator of *Mega Man*, but *Mighty No. 9* isn't *Mega Man* — it's made by a different studio. Capcom has abandoned the Blue Bomber so his designer Kickstarted this spiritual successor, a reimagining of the formula.

PS4, Xbox One, PC / 2016

No Man's Sky

When you stop and think about it, it can be difficult to comprehend the size of our universe. It's always bigger than that big thing you've just imagined. Yep, even that. So is indie cosmos-'em-up *No Man's Sky*. Its procedurally generated planets make *The Witcher 3*'s Northern Kingdoms look as cramped as a sumo match in a phonebox – before you even consider that each one exists within its own solar system, within its own galaxy.

You can go wherever you want, though sometimes you'll be restricted

by your equipment. Your ship or suit may need to be upgraded to visit toxic or radioactive planets, which you can do by collecting credits through mining materials, discovering new species or attacking and looting other ships and outposts.

What's the eventual aim? The makers won't say, but there will be a reason for you to aim for the centre of the universe. What you'll find there is anyone's guess. God? The meaning of life? Or an old man with a monolith at the end of his bed? It won't belong until you can find out...



PS4, Xbox One, PC / November

Star Wars: Battlefront

With the first new Star Wars film since *Return Of The Jedi* due at the end of the year (*The Phantom Menace*? *Revenge Of The Sith*? Nope, never heard of them...) we were fully braced to be disappointed by the inevitable tie-in game – but *Battlefront* is shaping up to be anything but a lazy cash-in.

For starters, it embraces the Star Wars universe at the time of the original trilogy, rather than focusing on the

newest film (although a *Force Awakens* DLC pack will be available shortly after the film's released), so it immediately appeals to everyone who's ever had an imaginary lightsaber fight, whether they're five years old or 45.

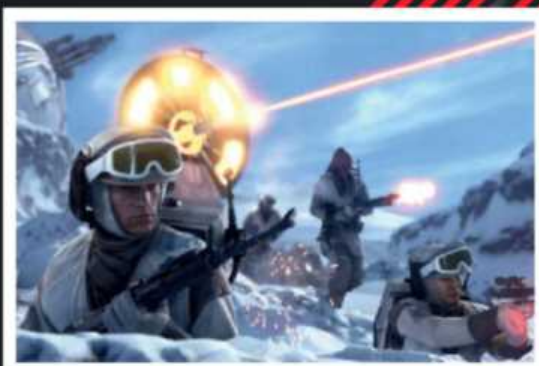
But what really hits you is how well Dice has recreated that world. The team had access to original props and materials from the films, plus they visited locations around the world that were used for filming, scanning

everything in 3D in order to create accurate models of them within the game – and that's a big part of what sucks you in as soon as you hear the first volley of blaster fire.

Battlefront will have a single-player mission, but the focus is very much on multiplayer, with 12 maps across four planets. We've had a bash at two of them (see below) – and *Battlefront* is already looking to be the definitive Star Wars videogame.



ON THE DARK SIDE



Clad in the white armour of a stormtrooper, assuming it would offer some camouflage against the snowy backdrop of ice planet Hoth, we stepped into a 20-a-side battle, TIE Fighters screaming overhead and a giant AT-AT plodding by. The pew-pew of blaster fire rang out and we dropped dead. It doesn't get much more Star Wars than that.

Having respawned, we pressed on, now using boulders and trenches for cover – and trying not to be distracted by the incredible graphics and those familiar characters. Even the most finicky Jedi fan will struggle not to be impressed.

Our job was to protect the AT-ATs while making

sure the scattered uplink stations were kept out of rebel hands. As in the *Battlefield* series, wins rely on teamwork rather than straight-up kills, and Dice (the same dev makes both titles) has nailed the sense of being just a single part of a much larger battle.

You can, if you're lucky, pick up power-ups that are dotted around the map. We managed to get behind the controls of an AT-ST Walker and kill off a few enemies with a barrage of rockets. But that firepower comes at a price. It was slow and tricky to manoeuvre, and left us rather exposed to attack.

Towards the end of the demo we experimented with switching between first- and third-person views. While the latter is good for keeping tabs on your surroundings, seeing through the eyes of a stormtrooper just felt more natural. Perhaps we do have designs on ruling the galaxy, just like that therapist told us all those years ago...



ON THE LIGHT SIDE



Later on in the same galaxy, but on a warmer planet, we tried the two-player co-op Survival mode, playing as the Rebellion. It's essentially a horde-style game in which you fight off waves of increasingly strong AT stormtroopers.

We dispatched the first few quite easily, but when a tougher foe appeared – a stormtrooper with flashes of red on his armour – things began to heat up. Literally. Blasters don't use ammo clips so there's no faffing around with reloading in *Battlefront*. Instead, guns overheat with prolonged use, forcing you to wait a few seconds before being able to fire again; some last longer than others.

You're also equipped with a jetpack, which has enough charge to reach higher plains or simply to scarper from a gunfight that you might not be winning.

Before long, they sent an AT-ST our way. Of the two loadouts available we'd picked the one with a seeking rocket launcher, and a few direct hits later

our two-legged friend was a mass of mangled metal lying on the dusty floor.

You travel light; apart from a rechargeable shield that will protect you from damage for a while, that's pretty much the extent of your gear, but this isn't meant to be gun-obsessed war-porn like *Call Of Duty*. It's Star Wars.

Unlike the 40-person multiplayer, there are no unlimited respawns. You can grab extra lives when you find them, but if you run out, it's up to your partner to fight off the enemies and complete the round before you can come back. If you both run out of lives, it's time to join Obi Wan in the big Cantina bar in the sky. Game over, young Padawan.





Character assassination

Collect the right power-up in one of the battles and you'll respawn as one of Star Wars' most iconic characters. Luke, Vader and Boba (Fett) have all been announced as playable so far, but the one we're holding out for is Admiral Ackbar. No matter what button you press, all he'll ever do is bark: "It's a trap!"



PS4, Xbox One / October

Rock Band 4

Just as *Guitar Hero* embarks on its own reunion tour, so too does Harmonix's *Rock Band*. Whereas its competitor has opted to reinvent itself with live video crowds and a two-layer button layout on its plastic axe, *Rock Band 4* seems (mostly) content with reliving the glory days and bringing the classic party experience to new consoles. Not that we're complaining.

If *Rock Band 3* seemed a little overstuffed with its keyboard controller and little-appreciated focus on musical instruction, *Rock Band 4* is all about stripped-down fun: it's guitar, bass, drums and vocals jamming in unison to a massive setlist of licensed tunes. Given the good few years since we enjoyed the last-gen entries – and spruced-up graphics aside – you could've convinced us that it was the exact same game.

But there is meaningful stuff to be found, mainly with the new freestyle

guitar solos. Rather than matching up exact notes coming down the chart, you can simply wail out whatever wild widdles pop to mind, and Harmonix says the game does its best to make you sound more Jimmy Page than Jimmy Cricket no matter the input. Multi-part vocal harmonies make their way over from *The Beatles: Rock Band*, so backing singers are a welcome (optional) addition.

That old-but-new approach extends to the hardware as well. The instrument



controllers look identical to the previous ones, but there are worthwhile tweaks: they're sturdier and more solid-feeling, plus the microphone is better at picking up your lyrical handiwork. But if you have the old instruments stored away, those will work fine – PS3 to PS4 and Xbox 360 to Xbox One, of course. (Harmonix pulled off a mighty feat, but they can't perform cross-platform miracles.)

Same goes for past music: almost all of the old downloadable songs and on-disc tracks will carry over into *Rock Band 4* across console generations, while the full new soundtrack includes bangers from Jack White, The Who, Fleetwood Mac and Queens Of The Stone Age, with plenty more yet to be revealed.

Reviving the old band could be a pricey proposition if you didn't hold onto your plastic guitars: the full bundle is ₹26,990. But as ever, *Rock Band 4* is an absolute blast, and it could be worth the investment to reignite your social (gaming) life.



ALTERNATIVELY



Guitar Hero Live due October

Activision has ditched cheesy animation in favour of live action but the big development is *GH Live*'s axe. It has two rows of buttons at the top of the neck, which will take some getting used to but could be that bit more satisfying to master.

Do your best David Bowie impression (minus the face paint and skin-tight leggings)

Is this what our post-nuclear world will look like? Best get stocked up on Super Noodles



PS4, Xbox One, PC / November

Fallout 4

It's been 200 years since you entered Vault 111. Your wife and kid are nowhere to be seen, presumably killed in the nuclear war that led to your confinement, although on venturing outside and back home you discover that your helpful robotic nanny has survived and still recognises you – it'll even say your name (Bethesda has programmed in thousands).

There's also the faithful hound from the trailer – and while it can't say your name, it can be commanded to go to certain locations, collect stuff and attack enemies.

The famous VATS system also returns, allowing you to pause time, pick a specific body

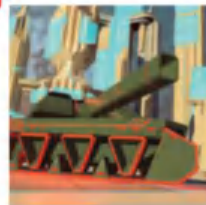
part on an enemy and take a shot at it. It's one of those things that make the series different, and that bit more tactical than other RPG-tinged shooters.

So far, so *Fallout* – but then things go a little bit *Minecraft*. Where *Fallout 3* allowed you to change the decor in your post-apocalyptic abode, in *Fallout 4* you'll be able to build a whole house. Or an entire settlement. Make it good enough and other people, including well-stocked traders, will move in.

All the post-apocalyptic detritus you gather can also now be reclaimed and used to customise your Power Armour and weapons, to the tune of thousands of variations for each one.



WHAT'S NEXT IN VR



Battlezone PS4

It might be a VR remake of the 1980 Atari classic, but don't expect to don a Morpheus headset and see the original green and black wireframe graphics. This reboot is in full technicolour, so your tank-based battles will have a *Tron*-esque feel. In fact, can we have a *Tron* game for Morpheus next please, Sony?



Adrift PS4, Xbox One, PC

Essentially a twist on Oscar-winning film *Gravity*, *Adrift* sees you waking up alone on a wrecked space station. With limited oxygen and minimal resources, you must float through the wreckage and piece together what happened so you can find a way back home. It's coming to consoles, but we'll wait to play it on Oculus Rift.



RIGS PS4

In this deathmatch, two teams of three in Transformer-like mechs battle it out in a vast, multi-layered arena that gives the game a feeling of *Titanfall* crossed with *Unreal Tournament*. It's all part of an organised 'Mechanized Combat League' – and if this is what sport will be like in the future, then sign us up for a season ticket.

PS4, Xbox One, PC / February 2016

Mirror's Edge: Catalyst

With its slick, first-person parkour gameplay, the original *Mirror's Edge* was a refreshing change of pace from run 'n' gun shooters – but it remained more a fleshed-out concept than a real, feature-packed world.

Seven years later and *Catalyst* is here to build on those foundations. It focuses on Faith, the protagonist whose red shoes we slipped into before, and takes place in the same unnervingly clean, dystopian city whose inhabitants are numbed by consumerism and ruled by fear.

Your first test of the controls is when Faith escapes from the futuristic law enforcement officers. It's simple on paper: tap the left bumper for any upward movements like jumping (or hold to run along walls), and use the left trigger for downward movements like sliding or rolling before landing.

In reality, it took five minutes before we were chaining moves together fluidly, but

after falling to our death a few times, we found a satisfying rhythm, leaping over a fence, running along a wall and vaulting off an air duct before rolling to safety.

Whereas before you were limited to sectioned-off rooftops, in *Catalyst* the whole city is your playground. You can run over and through buildings, and even take to the streets. There are no loading screens, with seamless transitions designed to keep you moving at all times. That last part is important, as

Faith is essentially immune to damage for as long as she's in transit.

Combat itself is easy to master, needing only two buttons to open up a serious can of whoopass. From drop-kicking enemies in the face to delivering head-spinning moves, it's impossible not to smile as you out-gun the bad guys without pulling a single trigger.

You can put your fighting skills to the test in Security missions, which see you delivering information across the city while the law does its best to stamp you out. Or try Billboard Hack, which involves climbing over overhanging propaganda posters then destroying them to display your own tag.

But Dash mode is where the hardcore freerunners will spend most of their time, trying to shave vital milliseconds off their A-to-B times. Failing all that, you can run around exploring the vast playground at your disposal, creating your own death-defying entertainment as you go.



No guns allowed: use your environment, agility, momentum and distracting footwear



Wii U / September

Super Mario Maker

Mushroom, turtle, another mushroom, flower, topped with a Bullet Bill. It might sound like the ingredients of Heston Blumenthal's latest creation, but it's actually an insane tower of enemies that Nintendo wants to let you build, fine-tune, and eventually challenge your friends with on *Super Mario Maker*.

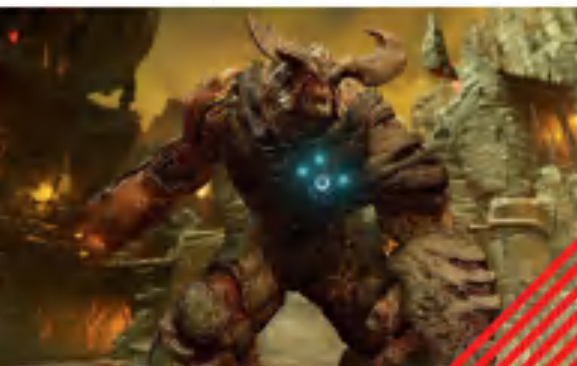
And it's not just the enemies you can tinker with. Using a

simple set of level-building tools, players can construct their own 2D Mario worlds. The Wii U's touchscreen and stylus mean you can easily pick up and rejig items, and choose between the 8-bit or shiny HD graphical styles from opposite ends of Mario's long Nintendo career. You can also jump in and out of edit mode as you play, so if you encounter a bit that you've made too hard (or too easy),

you can immediately chuck in a few extra Goombas.

If you don't think your skills are quite up to scratch, there'll be 100 pre-made levels, plus you'll be able to download those made and shared by others.

If nothing else, you can finally answer those questions that have been keeping you awake for years. What happens when you stick a bomb on a Koopa and plonk it underwater?



PS4, Xbox One, PC / 2016

Doom

Raving successfully resurrected *Wolfenstein* last summer, Bethesda is bringing back another daddy of '90s shooters.

Much like *The New Order*, the new *Doom* won't concern itself with the niceties of modern first-person shooters or hybrid RPGs. There'll be no waiting for a chance to take a clean shot, or stopping to take a breather while your health bar

fills back up to maximum – this is relentless, bullet-spraying chaos that rewards speed and maintaining momentum. Cowering behind a wall is wasted time that could be better spent heaving a chainsaw into a demon's face.

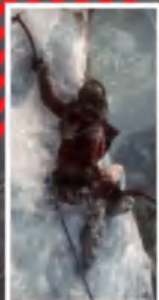
This is a reboot rather than a remake, so some weapons and enemies from the original will return alongside new ones that will hopefully retain the same

levels of subtlety as the BFG-9000. Just don't tell your mum what it stands for.

Doom looks charmingly brash, but that doesn't mean it'll be brainless. Its SnapMap mode is a level editor that'll allow you to make and share your own maps for the multiplayer mode, even opening up the game's rules of logic to create whole new modes. Think *Minecraft* reimagined by Slayer.



ALTERNATIVELY



Rise Of The Tomb Raider
Xbox One,
Xbox 360

Prefer your adventurers to come without a Y chromosome? Lara Croft also returns soon (November, in fact) in a snow-covered search for a lost city in Siberia. Xbox One owners will get it first, so they can lord it up over smug *Uncharted* fans, at least for a while.

PS4, Xbox One, PC / March 2016

Uncharted 4: A Thief's End

With Lara Croft back on the scene, Nate Drake can't afford to sit around watching Dion Dublin in *Homes Under The Hammer*; reminiscing with Sully about the good old days – and with the power of the PS4 to exploit, Naughty Dog's first next-gen *Uncharted* game is shaping up to be a spectacular finale to the series.

The return of Drake's older brother Sam, long presumed

dead, brings our hero out of retirement; and while over the course of the game the intrepid adventurers are sure to take in any number of globe-spanning locations in pursuit of the pirate treasure they seek, what Naughty Dog has shown so far takes place in spectacular tropical locations, the most recent including a dramatic car chase through a Madagascan hillside town. This will be the first



time Drake has driven a car (perhaps he struggled with three-point turns), or indeed used a grappling hook to deliver swinging attacks, like a monkey with an attitude problem.

So will it really be the end for Drake? If Naughty Dog kills him off at the end, it would take some sort of misguided flashback or reincarnation game to carry on... but can you honestly see Sony letting him go that easily?

PS4, Xbox One / October

Assassin's Creed Syndicate

It begins in a very familiar place: a London pub. No, it's not *Stuff's* Monday morning meeting, it's *Assassin's Creed Syndicate* – the first AC game to be set in Britain. Unfortunately there's no time for a pint – we're quickly out into the streets of Victorian London, nearby factories pumping black smoke into the sky, the roads busy with horse-drawn carriages.

It's 1868 and we've slipped into the long black coat and top hat of Jacob Frye – a kind of action hero Russell Brand. His sister Evie is also playable but for now we're scaling the walls as Jacob in that familiar AC way, the added power of the PS4 meaning you can really pick out the handholds in the intricate architecture. The Industrial Revolution is in full swing, and with the capital growing rapidly the wooden scaffolds make the rooftops even more accessible.

Jacob also has another trick: a rope launcher. Our mission is to reach a rival

gang's stronghold and eliminate them. We fire a rope up to a nearby rooftop and disappear into the air like some sort of Dickensian Batman.

AC vets will be familiar with what happens next. Having stalked across the skyline, using the zip-wire to bridge the bigger gaps and spotting landmarks from St Paul's to Blackfriars station, we use Eagle Vision to survey the area. Members of the hilariously named Blighters gang glow red. There are



10 of them, with hostages who will be killed if we're detected. We fire a hallucinogenic dart into a fire that a trio of Blighters have gathered around for warmth, sending a cloud of noxious gas into the air, causing them to turn on each other. While two fight it out, a blade to the neck takes care of the third.

Having switched the top hat for a hood to signify added stealth, we clear the remaining seven with varying levels of sneakiness, resorting to a pistol for the final one and securing the area as a safe place on the map.

But before we have a chance to move on, the gang's leader Bloody Nora (yes, really) arrives and a chase ensues, hijacking a horse and carriage to race through the busy London streets. It ends with a mass brawl, from which we emerge victorious (natch), and sister Evie joins Jacob to declare to all within earshot that they are now part of the pair's workforce. Will there be a pension plan included?



"Cor blimey, Guv'nal!
You've gawn and got
claret all over me best
stabbin' jacket!"



Xbox One / September

Forza Motorsport 6

Forza Motorsport 5 might have been the shimmering jewel of the Xbox One launch line-up, but for all its graphical bluster, the racer felt a bit dry and borrowed a little too heavily from earlier games. Those are forgivable complaints for the first new-gen entry, but not the next. Luckily, Turn 10 Studios' latest effort should right any wrongs.

No doubt, *Forza 6* delivers strength in numbers – starting with the 450+ cars, which is double the last count, plus they're all fully viewable in the stunning Forzavista mode. Want to walk around your virtual ride or examine the stitching on the leather steering wheel? Feel free. The new Ford GT leads the line-up, but the array of licensed manufacturers is huge.

Forza 6 also bumps up the track count to 26, a serious upgrade over the 14 seen in *Forza 5*, which got old too soon due to limited locations. Daytona International Speedway and Brands Hatch are

standouts, but the real attention-grabber is Rio de Janeiro with its tight, winding city streets and eye-catching sights. It really shows off *Forza 6*'s graphical upgrades, which is impressive given how stunning the last game was.

But it's not all about graphical pop. We had a go at two of the big additions being worked into *Forza 6*: inclement weather and night racing. Thanks to fully rendered puddles – yes, 3D puddles, the future is truly great – you'll lose some control by

blasting through the wet stuff. It felt overly punishing, but we'll take Turn 10's word on the level of realism.

Racing at night adds a thoroughly tense element to the action, making defensive driving even more essential as headlights provide most of the illumination, particularly in the terrifying tree-lined back section of Le Mans.

Forza's impressive driving model is well established across its decade-long career, so aside from those additions, don't expect too many surprises – there are no bonnet-mounted bazookas or ejector seats. But that's no problem: the core racing is impeccably refined and entertaining, and most of the complaints from the last game had to do with simply wanting more. *Forza 6* seems poised to address those gripes with its beefier garage and track line-up, plus a potentially vast new Stories Of Motorsport career. Tried and true isn't a problem when the racing is this fantastic.



Night-time driving and British-style weather have been included to add an extra layer of challenge



The Ford GT is just one option in a stable of over 450 cars (please don't drool on the bonnet)



This fella is called Trico; we asked, but Pets At Home were all out of them

PS4, Xbox One, PC / 2016

The Last Guardian

Way back in 2009, Sony showed off a game called *The Last Guardian*. It'd already been in development for two years and at that time we were still firmly in PS3 territory – the PS4 was four years from even being announced. And then... nothing. The small boy and his dog-eagle-cat-thing disappeared and developers Team Ico fell silent.

But *The Last Guardian* is finally back. The little boy is still unnamed, but we now know that the dog-eagle-cat-thing is called Trico. Where his emerald green horns came from – and who removed them – is anyone's guess, as is much of the overall storyline. We have, however, seen a sequence not shown

to the public that involved the pair escaping from a cell-like room within the ruined city that holds them captive.

The makers explained that their aim is to blend the companionship of Ico with the giant creatures of *Shadow Of The Colossus*. The original hand-painted style remains, and that's vital in recreating the wonderful ethereal quality that made those earlier games so easy to get lost in; plus it retains the sense of height that makes those leaps across chasms such heart-in-mouth moments.

It might have been nearly 10 years in the making, but *The Last Guardian* is shaping up to be worth the wait.

WORKING BACKWARDS

The Last Guardian was meant for the PS3, but it's been so long in development its eventual home will be the PS4. So what if you've got other old-gen games you still want to play? Some are available on the PlayStation Store, but Microsoft has stolen a march on Sony and finally added backwards compatibility to the Xbox One – something that many gamers have clamoured for from the beginning.

Microsoft's list of compatible games is short – 21 so far – and the highlight is *Mass Effect* (above). Still,



the feature doesn't launch until October so there's time for it to expand.

However, after the success of remastered versions of last-gen games like *GTA V* and *The Last Of Us*, some developers might

rather tap into the extra cash available through sprucing up their old titles, rather than missing out by allowing Microsoft to simply make them compatible with the newer console. Only time (and take-up) will tell.



PS4, Xbox One, PC / 2016

Deus Ex: Mankind Divided

If it ain't broke, there's no need to augment it with enhanced vision, wall-smashing punches and a cloaking device – but despite *Deus Ex's* attitude towards self-improvement, *Mankind Divided* doesn't appear to stray too far from the formula that earned it *Stuff's* full five stars (even if the boss fights were a pain in the backside).

It's 2029, and protagonist Adam Jensen is back in the starring role. After

the conclusion of the last game, which saw the transhumans of the world sent into a violent rage, the natural humans of the world are widely against their semi-robotic counterparts, who've been shunned by the rest of society. Jensen is working with Interpol to track down transhuman terrorists, and he still wears shades at night. Perhaps he's in a band or something.

In the years since 2011's *Human Revolution*, a number of extra

augmentations have been developed for Jensen to stash up his sleeve (or wherever else he can find space), including an arm-mounted gun and an obsidian defence screen called a Titan Shield.

The main *raison d'être* of *Deus Ex* has always been freedom of choice, so expect to see the effects of the way you choose to approach the game, whether that's silently sneaky, or all guns blazing.



ALTERNATIVE SHOOTERS



Halo 5

Halo: The Master Chief Collection will tide over series fans with HD updates, but this autumn is when the FPS sensation makes its new-gen leap. The multiplayer beta introduced major tweaks to the competitive formula, and *Halo 5's* 60fps engine ought to make for a serious Xbox One showcase.



Call Of Duty: Black Ops III

There was a new *CoD* coming, and it was Treyarch's turn, so *Black Ops III* it is! Blops the Third will introduce four-player co-op for the campaign, plus you can play as a woman. Because now ladies are allowed to die needlessly for the powers that be as well. Yay equality!



Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six Siege

Siege looks far more interesting than *Rainbow Six Patriots*. In two teams, the attackers try to rescue the hostage while the defenders try to stop them. Destructible environments allow you to turn floors into doors using C4 and drop in from above.

It was already 2029, but Jensen was still waiting for his kitchen extension to be completed

AND BEYOND

PS4

Horizon: Zero Dawn



We've never been that enamoured with Guerrilla's overly linear *Killzone* games but *Horizon: Zero Dawn* looks to be another kettle of robot snakes. *Zero Dawn* features a huge open world inhabited by robotic animals, giving it the feel of a mechanised safari park. As it turns out, it's actually Earth but nature (working with some rogue evolving technology) has reclaimed the cities, hence the organically high-tech feel; and if it plays as well as it looks, this is a world we're keen to start exploring in more detail.



Gears Of War 4

Xbox One

As the fifth *Gears Of War* game in the series, this one will be called *GOW4* (obviously). Marcus Fenix has gone, replaced by a chap called JD. He has a slightly less impossibly deep voice, but a similar penchant for moving lots of bullets very fast from inside his gun to the inside of anything that's trying to kill him.



Unravel

PS4, Xbox One, PC

Aside-scrolling platformer that's reminiscent of *Little Big Planet*, *Kirby* and a less nightmarish *Limbo*. The knitted protagonist, Yarny, unravels as he goes, so you have to make it to the end of each level using the wool to bridge gaps and lasso fish to pull you across water, without getting in a tangle and running out of yourself.



Tom Clancy's Ghost Recon Wildlands

PS4, Xbox One, PC

With early plays of *The Division* not quite matching the initial excitement, *Wildlands* looks like a promising backup. Equally impressive free-roaming combined with a much grittier, contemporary setting seems like a solid recipe for success in this open-world shooter.



For Honor

PS4, Xbox One, PC

It wasn't all games with a '4' in their name at E3. Ubisoft's *For Honor* allows you to play as a samurai, medieval knight or Viking and focuses on precise one-on-one combat. Rather than button-bashing you will need to position your blade and time your strikes properly, not just swing it around like you're trying to behead a wasp.



South Park: The Fractured But Whole

PS4, Xbox One, PC

Say it out loud. Yep, this is a *South Park* game all right. Despite saying they'd never make another video game, Stone and Parker are on board again, so expect Cartman, Kenny and co's superhero story to be as wildly inappropriate as the TV show. We wouldn't expect anything less.



Mass Effect: Andromeda

PS4, Xbox One, PC

Despite having no number in the title, *Andromeda* is essentially *Mass Effect 4*. It takes place long after the original trilogy, although puzzlingly you won't be playing as the character in the announcement trailer. The biggest question: how does it get around the rather final ending of *Mass Effect 3*?

Numero uno?

OnePlus has a new flagship killer and having spent quality time with the new '2', we know the company is getting rather good at its game

from ₹24,999 (64GB) / oneplus.net

Lo and behold, what do we have here? OnePlus believes its new '2' is yet another flagship killer. Are they getting too cheeky this time around?

Absolutely not! Unbox the phone, ease it into your palm and the device satiates the deepest parts of your soul with its premium design. A metal bezel, which is the culmination of an aluminium/magnesium alloy, laps around the sides of the phone to keep things classy. The body exhibits a hint of curve on the rear, which gives the '2' an impression of it hovering millimeters above your desk, when you rest it there. If at all.

At 175g, the phone is a tad heavier than its predecessor, but it hardly comes in the way. What does come in the way is the invite system, which is the only way to buy the phone. OnePlus needs to fix this as quickly as they can, before fans begin to lose their minds. That hiccup apart, the new OnePlus 2 is a phone that jabs all the right punches towards competition. So much that even 'flagships' from top brands look petrified. It is a no-nonsense device that delivers at a ridiculously low price and is our new favourite Android smartphone.



1 Dragon heart

To keep things running slicker than an oil spill, OnePlus has chosen the 64-bit, Octa-core Snapdragon 810 processor running at 1.8GHz. That makes sure that there is zero lag when you switch between apps, browse the web or play graphics-heavy games.

2 Lean. Mean. Screen.

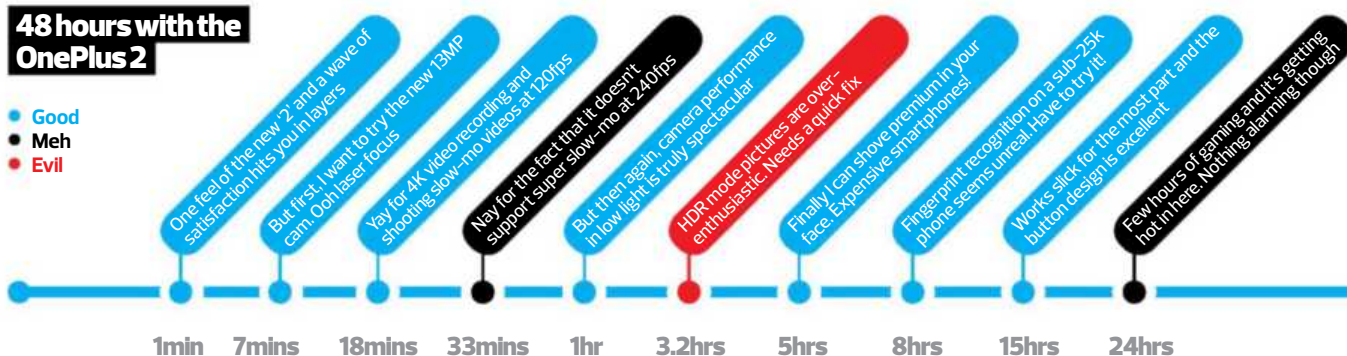
The contrast ratio has now been bumped up to 1500:1 and that helps in delivering deeper blacks. Colours are punchy as you play games or watch HD videos and the display manages to extract maximum levels of detail with the 401ppi it has at its disposal.

3 Finger slinger

OnePlus has done a fine job with its fingerprint recognition on the new '2'. It is simple to train and responsive for the most part. Except that one random time, when it refuses to register your input. Like when you pick a piece of bacon and then try to unlock. Yes.

48 hours with the OnePlus 2

● Good
● Meh
● Evil



INTERACTIVE
SECTION
KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR
THE BLIPPAR ICON



Tech specs

Screen 5.5in, 1080x1920 IPS LTPS LCD

Processor Octa-core Snapdragon 810

OS Android Lollipop 5.1 with Oxygen OS 2.0

Camera 13MP rear, dual-LED flash, laser focus, OIS, 5MP front

Battery 3300mAh (non-removable)

Storage 64GB **RAM** 4GB

Dimensions 151.8x74.9x9.9mm, 175g

Is there more 2 it?

The new '2' is ridiculously well priced, has speedy guts and a sensational camera. But that's not all.



Sound

The downward firing speakers are louder when compared to the OnePlus One and much crisper. However, as always for maximum involvement, invest in a pair of good headphones.



IC you

The OnePlus 2 is the first smartphone to offer the new reversible USB Type-C slot. Using it is an absolutely stress-free experience and a slightly longer charging cable helps matters.



Let me charge you

With its 3300mAh battery (200mAh more than the OnePlus One), on an average, the phone lasts an entire day even with considerably heavy (Wi-Fi, gaming) usage.



Happy to swap

The phone is offered with the much loved Sandstone backcover, which you can now swap with exciting ones like Bamboo, Apricot, Rosewood, and our favourite - kevlar.

4 Shoot me twice. No thrice.

New 13MP camera exhibits crisp colour reproduction the cam app is a charm to work with, thanks to an improved interface. Laser focus assisted imaging performance is stellar both in day and low-light conditions with the only chink being HDR shots.

5 Ok, breathe now.

Oxygen OS, in its new version 2.0 avatar fixes tons of things you wanted fixed and helps you navigate swiftly to get a heap of tasks done. We especially love the fact that finally you can change the theme to 'Dark Mode' and even change colour accents.

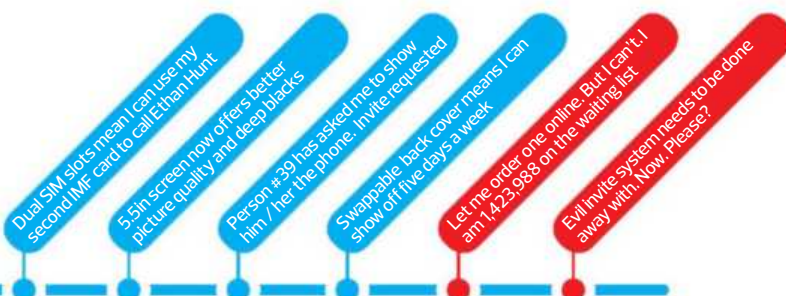


While the OnePlus 2 effortlessly manages to edge out the 'One' in every area that matters, it turns up the heat on other flagship devices from top brands. The pricing couldn't have been better for a phone that packs in so much. Now only if the invite system was done away with.
@yatish_suvarna

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

The OnePlus 2, without doubt, is a flagship killer and nothing else offers better value for money

25hrs 27.3hrs 30hrs 34.4hrs 35.8hrs 48hrs



Windows, cleaner

What do you do when the world hates your last OS? You create a bloody good one, that's what. It's also the reason 10 is the least 'Microsoft' product ever...

Free / microsoft.com

For the best part of a year, 10 has been evolving in a floodlit petri dish. For once, this was Microsoft without secrets, gnarly sales bluster or baseless boasting. Instead, 10's development has been marked by an even-handed, quietly confident humility.

You can almost hear Microsoft apologising for Windows 8. The company knows that Windows 10 must be right. And now, the large chunk of the world that didn't take part in the Technical Preview gets to find out if Microsoft has succeeded. You've probably seen the teaser ads — like the Preview, they're free of hard sell, instead talking about the new operating system's actual capabilities.

I've lived with Windows 10 from its earliest Preview days. I've killed a few laptops with it, been daft enough to use it for actual work (that didn't go well...) and tried just about every iteration of every Microsoft app along the way. So now that the big launch has finally come, is Windows 10 worth the wait?



1 Quicker and slicker

Everything from searching via the Start Menu to multi-desktop switching is instantaneous, with absolutely no lag from any part of the interface. Things happen as soon as you click, tap or swipe, though there are a few apps that could do with some optimisation.

2 "Initiate Minesweeper"

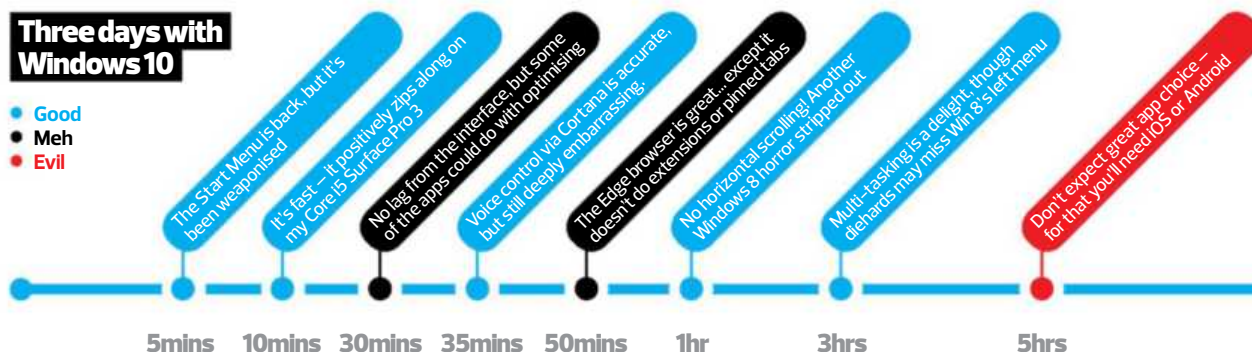
If you're happy to push through the embarrassment, Cortana is reassuringly accurate. Queries are returned in the Cortana assistant pop-up (especially pre-set cards such as weather or time), or shown as a Bing-powered search results in the new Edge browser.

3 Lost Explorer

The good news? Edge is great. It's fast, it seems to work with just about every site under the sun, and it has new features that bring it much closer to competing with Chrome and Safari. Microsoft promises that extensions are coming before the year's end.

Three days with Windows 10

- Good
- Meh
- Evil





4 Tablet mode tune-up

Win 10 on a Surface Pro 3 in tablet guise is excellent, largely thanks to the death of horizontal scrolling. It drove us mad in Win 8 – it's a really inefficient way to present things. So it's a relief to find that Win 10 returns to conventional up-and-down scrolling.

5 All action

You can call up notifications in the new Action Center by swiping in from the right, giving easy access to quick settings (aeroplane mode, rotation lock etc). Curiously, you can't swipe it away from the left – you either have to swipe again from the right or tap the desktop.

System requirements

Existing OS Windows 7 SP1 or Windows 8.1 Update

Processor 1GHz

RAM 1GB for 32-bit version, 2GB for 64-bit

Hard disk space 16GB for 32-bit, 20GB for 64-bit

Graphics card DirectX 9 or later with WDDM 1.0 driver

Special apps

The Windows app store may lag behind, but Microsoft has turned its own apps into a handy suite of free tools



■ Mail and Calendar

The revamped pairing for Win 10 is powerful enough to live with every day, and as usable on the desktop as they are on a tablet. And they work out of the box with Google Apps, along with Office365.



■ Photos

The new Photos app is fast, nicely designed and very capable. It does a great job of enhancing your mediocre photos (even straightening wonky ones) but doesn't have a wealth of filters to play with.



■ News

The all-new app may not give the likes of Feedly or NextGen a bruising – it offers almost nothing by way of customisations – but we can imagine a lot of people not needing any of that.



■ Maps

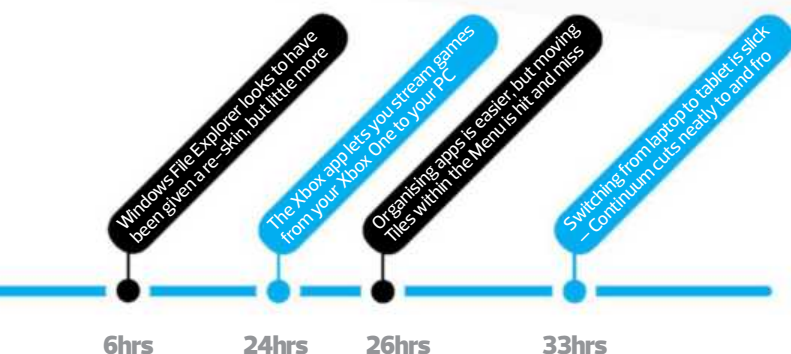
This app gives Google Maps a respectable sparring partner. Offline maps are handy for travel, and 3D Cities lets you explore tourist hotspots, along with a handful of 360° 'Streetside Views'.

You'd be a fool not to upgrade: 10 is a huge improvement on 7, and easier to use than 8. Its clever tricks should worry Apple: Cortana has beaten Siri to desktop, Continuum solves the problem of working on multiple devices, and the Xbox app will delight One owners. Could it tempt Mac loyalists to climb the fence? Maybe.

@stuff_india

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

Slick, simple and innovative to boot, Windows 10 is Microsoft's best new OS in ages



A really big foot

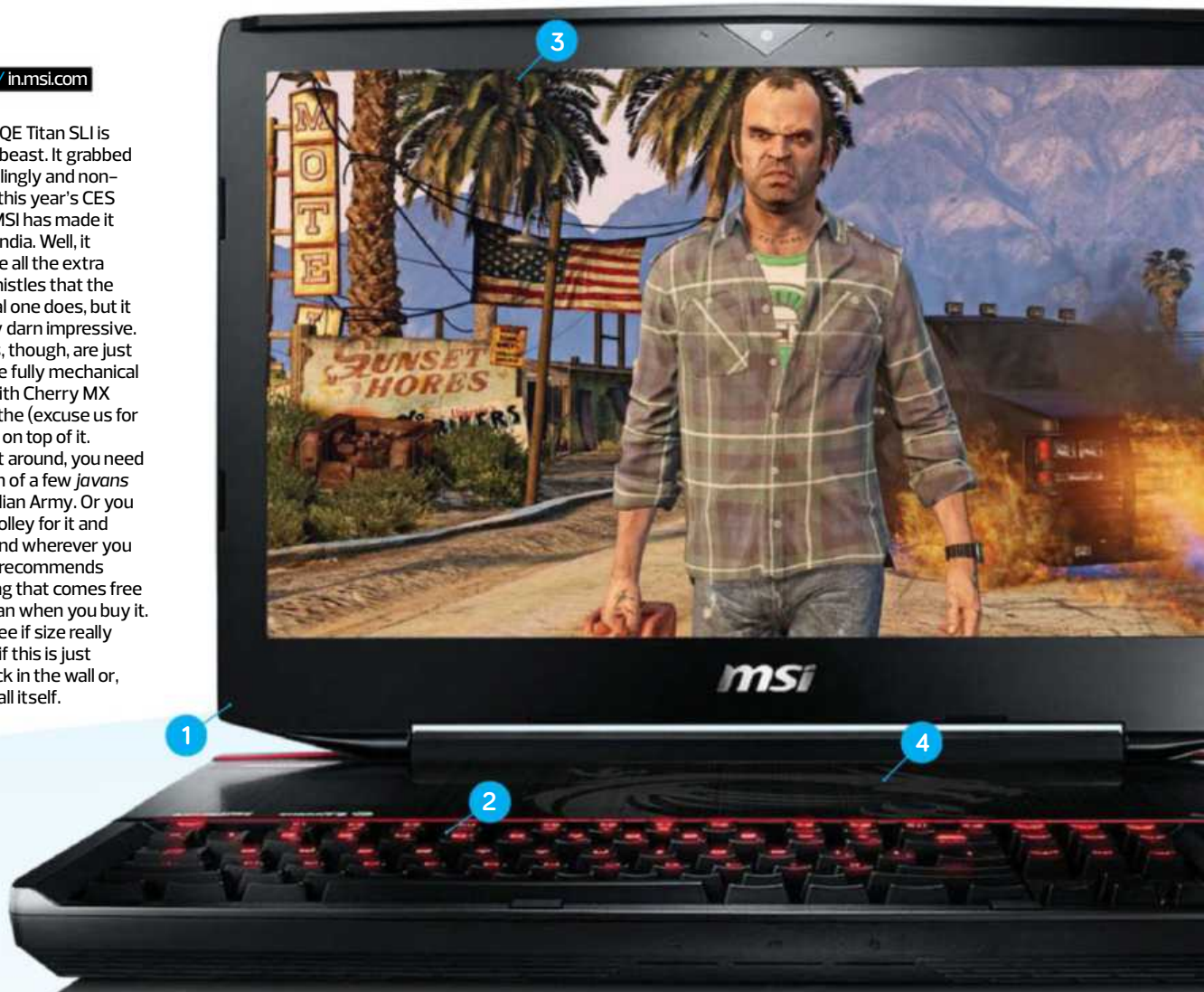
There are gaming laptops and then there is this 18.4in giant. Is the Titan's size and price actually worth it?

₹2,95,000 / in.msi.com

The GT80 2QE Titan SLI is surely a big beast. It grabbed eyeballs, willingly and non-willingly, at this year's CES and finally MSI has made it available in India. Well, it doesn't have all the extra bells and whistles that the international one does, but it still is pretty darn impressive. Great specs, though, are just the cake, the fully mechanical keyboard with Cherry MX switches is the (excuse us for this) cherry on top of it.

To carry it around, you need the strength of a few *javans* from the Indian Army. Or you can buy a trolley for it and push it around wherever you go. But MSI recommends using the bag that comes free with the Titan when you buy it.

So let's see if size really matters, or if this is just another brick in the wall or, ummm, a wall itself.



24 hours with the Titan GT80

● Good
● Meh
● Evil



1 Sci-fi weapon design?

MSI claims the GT80's design is inspired by ultimate weapons in sci-fi scenarios and the design gives it a more fluid look with feelings of light speed. We have no idea where this is going but we absolutely love the design. To us, it looks more like an aluminium super-car hood with a smattering of red. Really good quality stuff.

3 No 4K? Oh, ok...

Yes, it is Full HD. But the display, even if not 4K, is stunningly beautiful. The colours are as natural as we've seen on a display this size and hence, the experience is thoroughly enjoyable. The brown muddy terrain of Altis in Arma 3 looks stunning with crisp details and amazing textures.

5 Power brick

With specs that can put a few gaming PCs to shame, the Titan is a power chugger. Average battery life is about 1.5-2 hours. Switching to the Eco mode using the smart Shift feature MSI has integrated, doesn't help either. Carrying that charger is an everyday affair though. At least you won't need a gym membership after that.

2 Clickity click

The USP of the Titan is the fully mechanical keyboard with Cherry MX brown switches. The actual typing and gaming experience on the keyboard is beautiful. Probably the most satisfying one we've ever had. We could put Beethoven to shame if this keyboard was a piano. We just wish MSI provided a wrist rest to go with it.

4 Killing the benchers

The Titan performs like an F1 car designed to take off into the air. Benchmark scores encroached the region where desktop scores are usually charted. The Titan scored a massive 21,831 on the 3DMark Sky Diver benchmark. The Acer Nitro scored 12,530 in the same test at Full HD resolutions. Yup, we're mighty pleased.

Tech specs

Processor Intel Core i7 5700HQ+HM87
GPU Dual Nvidia GeForce GTX 980M 8GB GDDR5 SLI
Screen 18.4in FHD Anti-Glare, Wide View Angle
Memory 8GB DDR III x2 (16GB total)
HDD Super Raid -256GB SSD + 1TB SATA
ODD BD Writer
WLAN Killer N1525 Combo (2x2 a/c) + BT 4.0
Dimensions 45.6 x 33 x 4.9cm **Weight** 4.5kg

Stuff of Titans

With SLI configuration and sound by hi-fi speaker experts Dynaudio, the Titan is built to impress...



■ Slyly SLI

The Titan packs in two Nvidia GTX 960M graphics cards in an SLI configuration. It manages to play every game with maxed out settings at 55fps, only GTA V brought it down to 35.



■ Pterodactyle sound

The GT80 comes in a 4.1-CH configuration. The sound the laptop produces is pretty darn loud and can fill a room. But it tends to get jarring sometimes, losing low-end definition.



■ Ice ice baby

The Titan has four huge vents for cooling and a dedicated button for manually turning on all fans. The whirring gets pretty loud but temperatures never get too high, thanks to this.



■ Stealing the deal

The SteelSeries Engine 3 is where you unlock the keyboard's true potential. Everything from lighting to keypress macros and text macros is done here and is child's play. You can do it blindfolded.



GPU: On/Off

Don't need the extra juice? Switch off multiple GPUs. A restart is required though.



With specs that can kill some of the more ambitious PCs, the GT80 Titan SLI seems to be the ultimate gaming laptop. It does seem to be made for the most intense (read rich) gamers and enthusiasts, but it surely is worth the asking price. Convincing someone to spend close to ₹3 lacs on a laptop just got a lot easier, thanks to the Titan. @kaizzad

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

A monster of a gaming laptop only the craziest of crazy gamers would want to buy



Cut-price champion

Motorola's budget smartphone is better than ever before...

from ₹11,999 / motorola.in

■ One of the real spotlight improvements for 2015 is the Moto G's waterproofing. Little rubber seals on the battery cover keep water out of the SIM and microSD memory card slots, and the headphone/charge sockets are specially treated so they don't mind being dunked in water.

■ As with every Moto G, the screen is still pretty charming. It's sharp enough, has natural-looking colours, decent outdoor visibility and an oleophobic coating. This makes sure the screen doesn't become a smudgy mess as soon as you get your fingers on it.

■ The 2GB RAM, 16GB storage version we've tested runs like a dream. There's no creaky lag, transitions are super-smooth and it feels just as snappy as a phone two or three times the price. That said, the 1GB Moto G may feel annoyingly slow in parts: some of the other Moto Gs do with current software.

■ The most impressive, most improved, part of the Moto G is the camera. It's a pure joy to shoot with, being fast, offering very solid dynamic range and a very good hit rate. It absolutely decimates the cameras of rivals like the HTC Desire 626 and Sony Xperia M4 Aqua, making them look rubbish.

Tech specs

Screen 5.0in 1280x720 IPS LCD
Processor Qualcomm Snapdragon 410 1.4GHz **OS** Android 5.1.1
Cameras 13MP rear, 5MP front
Battery 2470mAh **Storage** 8/16GB plus up to 32GB with microSD **RAM** 1/2GB **Weight** 155g



■ A loud speaker

The Moto G's speakers are better this time around. The bottom speaker of the front-facing pair deals with audio, the top one is for calls. Overall, it sounds a bit louder and a good chunk warmer compared to its predecessors.



■ On the bright side

The camera app is improved too. We're taken with the latest addition: an exposure dial that sits right by the focus reticule. It's dead useful because you choose a subject rather than letting the phone do the job.

STUFF SAYS Waterproofing and a new camera make the 3rd G superb value ★★★★★

And we thought the G just could not get any better
StuffIndia

What more do you need? The Moto G third-gen model takes everything we loved about the previous Moto Gs, side-steps the performance issues we've seen recently from the old guard and adds in a great camera to finish off the package. This is comfortably the best Moto G to date, adeptly sticking to the series' style by fixing the weaker part of the older versions rather than turbo-charging its strong points.

The Gre(A8) Galaxy?

The thinnest phone Samsung has ever made is here

₹32,500 / samsungindiaestore.com

■ At 5.9mm, the Galaxy A8 is Samsung's slimmest phone. The Samsung website makes a big deal out of the all-metal body, but the back of the smartphone is plastic. It integrates smoothly with the curved metal on the sides though, so we aren't complaining. The A8 looks good from a distance, but feels better in your hands.

■ The A8 boasts of a 5.7in Super-AMOLED display with a Full HD resolution and it is gorgeous— outdoor visibility is perfect, the colours are punchy and the viewing angles are great. The pixel density is a very healthy 386ppi, squarely between that of the iPhone 6 (326ppi) and the 6 Plus (401ppi).

■ The A8 features Samsung's homegrown Exynos 5430 SoC processor, firmly establishing it as a mid-range device. If too many apps are open in the background while gaming, the phone starts getting hot and a slight lag comes into play. It makes you wonder why a device costing more than ₹30,000 isn't packing more than two gigs of RAM.

■ It comfortably goes through an average day on a single charge, courtesy a non-removable 3050mAh battery. More impressive is the A8's performance when it's not being used. It loses barely 3–4% of battery during the night when idle. Good boy.

Tech specs

Screen 5.7in Super AMOLED FHD
Processor Samsung Exynos 5430 SoC 1.8GHz, 1.3GHz **OS** Android 5.1
Cameras 16MP rear, 5MP front
Battery 3050mAh **Storage** 32GB plus up to 128GB with microSD
RAM 2GB **Dimensions** 158x76.8x5.9mm, 151g



■ Touchy-feely

See that bland home button that every Samsung has? That one also functions as a fingerprint sensor in the Galaxy A8. You can store up to four fingerprints and detection is surprisingly fast and fluid.

■ Snap unhappy

The A8 packs a respectable-sounding 16MP rear camera and 5MP front camera, but the picture quality is pretty average. Indoor shots come out a little grainy and lack detail. Top notch selfies, though.

STUFF SAYS The Galaxy A8 is a good device that has the makings of a great one ★★★★★☆

Samsung is on a roll this year with pretty little phones...
 @Karanlohan



The A8 feels great in your hands. Most of the phone is top notch; even the camera and the 2GB RAM aren't horrendous; they become a problem once the price enters the equation. If this was priced below ₹25,000, it could have been a game changer. But at ₹32,500, the Galaxy A8 might end up as just one more product in Samsung's extensive mid-range smartphone portfolio.

App:roved

FOR
PICTURE
PRIVACY

● ShowStopper Photos

You pass your phone to a friend to show them an amusing photo, and they start scrolling. Before long, they've found those pics of you dressed as a My Little Pony and things are never quite the same again. This app blocks such shenanigans, enabling you to rapidly create standalone galleries on the fly. These can then be saved as albums for other 'scrollers'. You get four pics per album for free; unlimited scrolage comes at a small price.

Stuff says ★★★★★
from ₹free / Android, iOS

FOR
QUIZZING
MATES

● Trivia Crack

Q1: What do you get if you cross Trivial Pursuit with Words With Friends? Answer: Trivia Crack. Q2: How similar is it to Trivial Pursuit? A: Very – the categories are identical. Q3: How's it work? A: You keep answering until you go wrong, at which point your opponent (a random or a friend) gets their go. Q4: Are the questions tough? A: They're set by other players, so vary from too easy to stupidly hard. Mostly the former.

Stuff says ★★★★★
₹free / Android, iOS, Windows Phone

FOR
PUZZLING
ACTION

● Gunbrick

Your task, as some kind of avian courier, is to pilot heavily armed metal cubes (known as Gunbricks) and blaze your way through an obstacle course with scant regard for health and safety. Given the potential for frustration, Gunbrick only occasionally outstays its welcome, with a combination arcade/puzzle section that's a bit too testing for the controls. But this is an original, zany and bold game, and a mash-up of genres that really works.

Stuff says ★★★★★
from ₹194.54 / Android, iOS

FOR
SNAPPY
VIDEOS

● Replay

Designed for Instagrammers, but suitable for anyone with pics and videos sloshing about on their iOS device, Replay is about creating videos... fast. You make a selection, pick a theme and — BAM! — a masterpiece. You can make a few tweaks: style, pace, font, filters and cuts. For the most part, though, this is all about letting an app take the strain, turning a pile of photos into a promo, or baby videos into something guaranteed to make everyone blub.

Stuff says ★★★★★
₹free / iOS



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Bech de



● Pinball Arcade

This hugely ambitious project recreates classic pinball tables inside your device, from relatively basic 1980s releases like *Black Knight* through to insanely complex modern tables like Stern's superb 2004 *Ripley's Believe It Or Not!* You can demo every table before you buy. Our advice: prepare your wallet for a workout.

Stuff says ★★★★★

₹free / Android, ₹60 / iOS

Mini meme



VIRTUAL PINBALL WIZARD

Pinball's not just about randomly smacking metal balls about. The best tables have deep gameplay mechanics... and many of them are on mobile



● Atomic Pinball Collection

This newcomer only has two tables for now, but they're both great, with perfect physics and large, vibrant graphics that look fantastic on an iPad. In *Revenge Of The Rob-O-Bot* you take on a furious android, and the madcap and fast-paced *Masks Of Glory* has you building tacos in a Mexican wrestling ring.

Stuff says ★★★★★

₹free / iOS

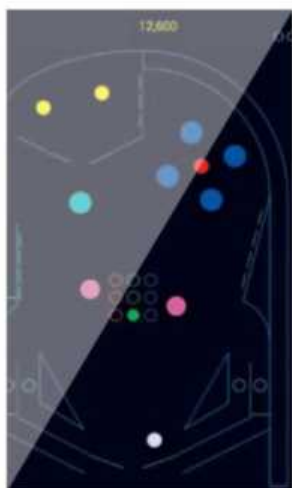


● Pro Pinball

Quite a few retro PC pinball titles have made their way to mobile, but Pro Pinball's the one we've been waiting for. The late-'90s series was epic, and *Timeshock!* doesn't disappoint on the iPad, with gorgeous visuals and challenging missions. Here's hoping *Big Race USA*, *The Web* and *Fantastic Journey* arrive shortly.

Stuff says ★★★★★

₹free / iOS (Android soon)



● Vector Pinball

You might argue that this shouldn't be here because it isn't a 'real' pinball game, but there's something beguiling about the way it strips things to the bone. Visually it's akin to a 1980s vector arcade title, and all the typical pinball sound effects have been replaced by musical tones that complement the soundtrack perfectly.

Stuff says ★★★★★

₹free / Android

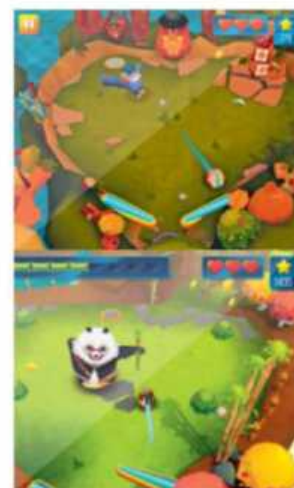


● Zen Pinball

Zen reimagines traditional pinball as freed from the confines of pesky reality, and then adds licensed bits. You still get flippers, ramps and switches aplenty but, depending on the table, may find yourself in a face-off against an angry Darth Vader, protecting X-Men from Sentinels, or zooming about South Park with Cartman and the gang.

Stuff says ★★★★★

₹free / Android, iOS



● Momonga Pinball Adventures

We're a bit suspicious when developers attempt to merge pinball mechanics and arcade fare, but *Momonga* works. You blat a squirrel about, fighting the forces of evil. Everything barrels along, making the experience brief, but there's plenty of repeat play on offer if you're determined to three-star every scene.

Stuff says ★★★★★

from ₹195.23 / Android, iOS

NDTV




Mercedes-Benz
The best or nothing.



6 CONTINENTS. AN **EPIC** JOURNEY.
THE **ULTIMATE** TEST FOR **MAN AND MACHINE**

C O M I N G S O O N

#GLAadventure

- 
- **TOMTOM BANDIT**
 - **GOPRO HERO 4 BLACK**
 - **GARMIN VIRB ELITE**

ADRENALINE SHOTS

We attached the top four action cameras to four whitewater experts and sent them into some challenging rapids

How we tested

There's no point taking the world's toughest action cams on a family orienteering trip. So instead we subjected them to two rigorous tests.

The first took place at Lee Valley White Water Centre (visitleevalley.org.uk), the course where Team GB struck canoeing gold in London 2012. Four of the

centre's most experienced kayakers each took a camera for several wild rides through the course's rapids, drops, holes and eddies. Go to bit.ly/action-cams-test to compare the footage.

After their thorough dunking in the frothy stuff, we mounted the cams in a variety of positions from helmets to handlebars while out riding bikes. This helped

to test their capabilities in fast-moving situations and in changing light conditions. Each one was tested at 1080p at various frame rates, and at up to 4K where available.

After tucking our exhausted action cams into bed, we analysed their footage and editing software before crowning our champion...
Special thanks to Lee Valley White Water Centre, Herts



CANOE VIEW

Ange Thompson

"I didn't notice the Bandit on my helmet at all – it had no effect on my paddling or rolling. It was super-easy to use thanks to the loud beep for starting and stopping recording, which I could easily hear over the roar of the water. The camera did get knocked slightly out of position at one point, but the automatic sleep mode meant battery life was surprisingly good."



IN DETAIL

1 Bullet time

The Bandit's bullet shape makes it unobtrusive and less likely to get knocked off, while its rotating mechanism makes it perfect for mounting to the side of a helmet and maintaining a perfectly framed shot.

2 Pressing matters

It doesn't have a slide switch like the Garmin, but TomTom's star button on the back starts the filming and adds highlight tags, while the button just in front of the screen stops the recording.

3 Batt mobile

The Bandit features a Batt-stick, an ingenious design that makes charging batteries and swapping microSD cards easy. It slides out of the back and plugs directly into a USB port – no cable or card adaptor required.

TOMTOM BANDIT

■ **Price** ₹14,999 / tomtom.com

■ **Tester** Ange Thompson

TomToms are gradually disappearing from car dashboards thanks to powerful sat-nav apps, but we're starting to see more of them on helmets instead. The company's first action cam shows plenty of promise, with video resolution up to 4K, a host of sensors to extract the statistical goodness from your action-packed exploits, plus GPS and an interface inspired by its running watches.

Bullet on your head

The Bandit's compact bulletcam form is a welcome change from the GoPro's boxiness, and its low-profile mounting system and size mean you can wear it on your head without looking like the human equivalent of a Google Street View car.

For kayaking duties we had to add the optional waterproof lens cover. This screws on in place of the standard white-edged cover and makes it waterproof to 50m as opposed to just splashproof. Unfortunately, it also closely covers the mic, almost completely blocking the audio as a result.

Noisy at night

The video quality is reasonable but it struggles in low light, with speckles of digital 'noise' appearing in the footage. Shooting at 4K is at 15 frames per second, which is fine for static shots but makes fast action look jerky. It manages a more useful 60fps at 1080p for capturing fast motion, or 30fps at 2.7K.

There are also timelapse and slow-mo modes available. You can film timelapses up to a resolution of 4K – resulting in a 30fps 4K video – but the quality of both is a little disappointing, showing a loss of detail and smearing in places.

Stats entertainment

The onboard display will look highly familiar to users of TomTom's fitness watches. To check how your shot is framed, you'll need to switch on the Bandit's Wi-Fi to hook up to TomTom's Android or iOS app, which provides the most lag-free remote

viewfinder experience we've had from an action cam. It's also where you can get busy editing and sharing. It's possible to overlay video with GPS and sensor metrics on iOS, but not on Android.

The Bandit's neat quick-release mounting plates are a useful innovation. Pinching opposite sides together releases the sprung mounting clip quickly and easily, despite being reassuringly secure during use.

The basic kit comes with three mounts: one curved sticky helmet mount, one flat sticky mount and a mount for using with widely available GoPro hardware – a wise addition that recognises how important having a number of different mounting options is to getting good shots.

You can pair the Bandit with TomTom's Bluetooth heart-rate strap for more stats linked to your video, and also operate it via a small, simple button remote that can be worn on your wrist, rucksack strap or handlebars.

Speedy sharing

The Bandit's headline feature is its focus on editing and sharing footage straight from your phone.

As with the GoPro, you can tag highlights manually – by hitting the record button while already recording – but the TomTom's built-in sensors will automatically tag your vids too. In the timeline of your clips, you'll see different icons where you've hit your top speed, taken a tumble (g-force) or caught some air (vertical speed), as well as max acceleration and deceleration. It's really effective and immediately gives you a great starting point for your edit.

The 'shake to edit' feature serves up a string of short highlights, but you'll still want to spend some time removing clips from earlier sessions, picking data overlays and uploading to YouTube. It's not seamless, but it's the best option we've seen for getting your footage out into the world quickly.



Tester specs

Name Ange Thompson

Kayak Jackson Karma (Small)

Favourite kayaking spot Fort William, Scotland

Fuel Gummy bears
Watersports hero Hannah Burgess



Tech specs

Resolution 1080p at 60fps, 4K at 15fps, 16MP stills

Connectivity Wi-Fi, Bluetooth

Water resistance Splashproof, or waterproof to 50m with optional lens cover

Dimensions 94x38x52mm, 190g

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★☆

Smart design and it's the king of quick edits, but video quality doesn't hit the high notes



IN DETAIL

1 The button of power

The side button activates Wi-Fi when it's off, takes you to settings when the camera is on, and adds a 'HiLight tag' if pressed while filming. This sounds confusing, but you soon get the hang of it.

2 BackPacking

While cheaper cameras sacrifice higher-end features for a built-in touchscreen, you can plug an LCD Touch BacPac (\$80) into the back of the Hero 4 Black, or add a Battery BacPac (\$50) instead.

3 Keep it in-house

Most cameras require add-on waterproof cases, but the Hero 4 Black comes with its own 60m-waterproof housing. If you'd prefer, you can strip it back and use the 'The Frame' mount (\$40).

GOPRO HERO 4 BLACK



Tester specs

Name Joey Allen
Kayak Dagger Mamba 8.1
Favourite kayaking spot Wales
Fuel Mars bar, banana
Watersports hero Arthur Gorton

Price ₹43,900 / gopro.com

Tester Joey Allen

"Hold on, that isn't the new super-dinky GoPro," you may be thinking. And you're right – we tested the Hero 4 Black rather than its new baby brother, the Hero 4 Session. The latter will be given a *Stuff* grilling soon, but this 4K-capable flagship is the one for this heavyweight test. It comes with the familiar polycarbonate waterproof housing and enough options to make it a bona fide professional filming device.

Mount pleasant

Like most of the other action cams here, the GoPro comes with basic sticky mounts – one curved and one flat – plus a couple of short

pivot-arm sections to give a bit of adjustment. Because GoPro is so established, you'll be able to find mounts that fit on anything from your guitar to your dog. The TomTom and the 4GEE both come with GoPro-compatible mounts that take advantage of their competitor's ubiquity.

Unlike some of its cheaper variants, such as the Hero 4 Silver (\$400), there's no touchscreen viewfinder on the Hero 4 Black; if you want to see what you're pointing at you'll have to use the app. Still, the small monochrome LCD on the front is useful. It shows main settings at a glance, and the system of three buttons – power/mode on the front,

record/enter on top and a Wi-Fi/settings button on the side – is surprisingly quick to use.

Appy partner

Changing deeper settings requires you to use the app, though. It's a brilliant companion to the camera, and having all the settings on one page lets you check everything is just how you like it before you start shooting. This is especially useful when you start delving into the GoPro's wealth of options, including its new night mode, which allows longer exposures on photos as well as perfecting the setups for your latest timelapse. In the live view mode, there's a bit

CANOE VIEW

Joey Allen

"The Hero 4's rejigged button layout, cleaner-looking housing and more secure locking system meant it was much more user-friendly than my current Hero 3. I used it with a Jackson Levator mount (\$150, jacksonkayak.com). It's my favourite mount because of its static position, as opposed to head mounts, which shift around and often don't give as true an image."



Tech specs

Resolution 4K at 30fps, 1080p at 120fs, 16MP stills
Connectivity Wi-Fi
Water resistance Waterproof to 50m
Dimensions 41x59x30mm, 152g

more lag than the quick TomTom, but it's only two seconds or so.

The Hero 4 Black is comfortably the most expensive camera in this test, so you'd hope it would deliver the best image quality. Thankfully, it does: this is only camera on test that shoots proper 4K at 30fps, and it shows: the action is smooth and the GoPro's great dynamic range captures more detail in the shadows and highlights as well as delivering more natural colours.

While its rivals do basic timelapse videos, the GoPro has a potentially bamboozling number of options from video timelapses in 4K to video

and timelapse at the same time in 1080p. There's even night lapse mode, which adjusts shutter speed to allow it to capture impressive shots of the night sky, or lights from passing traffic snaking along dark roads. Yes, the GoPro is expensive, but it isn't a camera you'll get bored with quickly.

Editing sweet

You can't do any editing in the GoPro app, so while out and about you can only share video clips. But its desktop editing software is powerful. The intuitive layout and step-by-step process help you get editing quickly,

while there are plenty of tools for changing the look and feel of your video.

You can apply different filters with presets, slow down footage, then get it out there for your friends to see. There are even editing templates with music based on a handful of popular GoPro videos so you can slot your own footage straight in. This software alone is responsible for the spread of GoPro-shot videos, and now third-party apps like Antix (₹free / iOS, Android) are bringing auto-editing powers like those seen on the TomTom Bandit.

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

A powerful action-film-making tool with great desktop editing software – it's still the one to beat

GARMIN VIRB ELITE

■ **Price** ₹37,990 / garmin.com

■ **Tester** Sean Clarke

Garmin might be relatively new to action cams, but it has a wealth of tough outdoor experience in everything from sailing to cycling. Long, flat, and in a rubbery black and white casing, the Garmin Virb Elite's styling can be traced back to some of the firm's handheld GPS units.

King of controls

The Virb Elite's display is a 1.4in 'chroma' screen that is designed specifically for use in bright light. It works well, using ambient light instead of a backlight, giving it good visibility outdoors and low power consumption. You won't want to watch whole movies on it, but for framing and information purposes, it does an admirable job.

The Virb is the only camera here with a slider switch instead of a button to start recording. It's our favourite method of controlling an action cam; you know absolutely when it's recording or not, and you can use it to start recording from powered off – no holding buttons or accidentally double-pressing. Perfect for when it's helmet-mounted and you can't see what you're doing.

Auto-recording smarts

As with its bike-computer cousins, the Virb's GPS can be set to start and stop when you do, so it doesn't use up all its memory (and battery) unnecessarily. If you're out on the mountain, you can also set it to record when you start going downhill – again, great for cutting out the lift runs on your skiing or biking session.

The camera itself is a little ungainly, and it isn't helped by the rather bulky mounting system, which leaves it sitting high off its mounting point. It comes with a pair of sticky mounts – one curved and one flat. It was dunked a number of times during kayaking without its waterproof dive housing, so it is clearly more than splashproof.

A video natural

This quality extends to the video itself – footage from the Virb Elite

has bags of detail and natural colours, coming second only to the GoPro in the quality of its footage.

Like the TomTom, the Virb Elite is a master of data collection. It uses its inbuilt GPS, accelerometers and gyroscope to measure g-force, distances and speed. It will display these as you move (only really useful when mounted on bike handlebars) and save them to overlay on your footage when editing.

You have the option of attaching ANT+ accessories to the Virb Elite to further add to your growing pile of data. So if you've already got a heart-rate belt, cadence sensor or power meter lying around, you can get those in on the act.

Mind the app

We had a lot of trouble with the Android remote app. Whenever we tried to start recording from the app, it didn't work, even causing the camera to freeze a couple of times. It's a far cry from the TomTom's stellar mobile effort. From the intro screens on the app, it appears that Garmin has focused its mobile support on its newer Virb XE camera, leaving the Virb and Virb Elite out in the cold somewhat.

Statty professor

Garmin's free Virb Edit software is on hand to help you slot together your GPS-logged masterpiece. It makes good use of the camera's many sensors, allowing you to overlay your footage with G-Metrix – stats such as speed, acceleration, position and even g-force. Our favourite of these is one we've only seen on Formula 1 TV coverage, with a dot in a circle that shows lateral forces as you speed up, slow down and corner.

There is a wide range of G-Metrix layout choices, and you can even customise your own. As an editing package it's pretty basic, but its simplicity helps keep you focused. MP4 is the only export format option, so if you want to squash the file down a bit, you'll have to use a secondary editing package.



Tester specs

Name Sean Clarke

Kayak 2013

Jackson Kayak
Super Star

**Favourite
kayaking spot**

The White Nile,
Uganda

Fuel Black coffee

Watersports hero
Rush Sturges



Tech specs

Resolution

1080 at 30fps,
16MP stills

Connectivity

Wi-Fi, ANT+, GPS

Water resistance

Splashproof, or
waterproof to
50m in optional
dive case

Dimensions

32x53x111mm,
177g

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

There are a few niggles, but the picture's great and it's excellent value for money

CANOE VIEW**Sean Clarke**

"The Virb is a little heavier than other action cams I've used and I was initially worried about its bulkiness, but once I was on the water I barely noticed it. I really liked the ease of the on/off switch — just a quick flick and it's recording — and it stayed securely in place the whole time, even with some hefty party wave action and arms flailing everywhere."

IN DETAIL**1 Sun block**

The Virb Elite's reflective Chroma LCD works with ambient light rather than using a backlight. This is a trick taken from Garmin's handheld GPS range; it produces clear text and previews even in blazing sunshine.

2 Under control

This main button is a simple way to eliminate any "Is it recording?" confusion. Slide one way to start recording, slide back again to stop. Best of all, if it's off, the slider switches it on and starts recording in one go.

3 Tracking a punch

The Virb Elite is packed with accelerometers, gyroscopes and a compass as well as GPS to track your every move. With Virb Edit software, you can lay these stats over your videos for the ultimate bragging rights.





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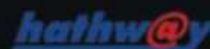
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GOPRO HAS BEEN DOING THIS, AND ONLY THIS, FOR A LONG TIME... AND IT SHOWS

THE WINNER

■ GOPRO HERO 4 BLACK



It's exciting to see new competition in the action cameras arena. The upstart contenders bring useful new tech: GPS and data overlays that make sense now, and livestreaming tech that could be a taste of video's future.

But GoPro has been doing this, and only this, for a long time... and it shows. The Hero 4 has a focus on image quality and versatility that mean it's still the one to beat. Its free editing software is just as powerful, helping you to get carefully crafted action vids up in double-quick time, and it comes with a ton of mounting options. Having said that, ₹43,900 is a lot to spend on a toughcam. The GoPro's cheaper cousin, the Hero 4

Silver (\$400), shoots 4K at 15fps rather than 30fps, but does have a live view screen; and if you're not looking to shoot 4K, the Hero 4 Session is smaller and lighter.

The real bargain, however, is the Garmin Virb Elite, which at ₹37,990 allows you to create a two-camera shoot for (about) the price of one GoPro, without compromising on video quality and adding a nice editing package that includes some cool G-Metrix overlays. The nicely designed TomTom shares these abilities, and the 4GEE brings a new one: the ability to broadcast live to the world from one small camera. Which could be the future of video... but not yet. For now, GoPro remains the king.

Hi-def from above

DJI bills its Phantom 3 Professional as the ultimate flying camera. Sam Kiildsen (Stuff, UK) spends a fortnight finding out if this is a top quadcopter or a top quad-flopter

₹99,000 / flycam.in



DAY 01

There's a knock at the door, and a beaming courier hands me a package. He's only so cheerful because he doesn't know what he's parting with: the Phantom 3 Professional, DJI's latest drone. This flying machine packs a 4K camera and so many smarts that a 10-thumbed four-year-old couldn't crash it.

I'm exaggerating, but it really is incredibly easy to use. A mere 30 minutes later, this white plastic

hawk is soaring through the skies over leafy south London. Even though the Phantom 3 is hovering some 200m away and 120m above me, I'm viewing a pristine 720p live feed of the drone's view on my Nexus 7 tablet, which is mounted on the control and connected via USB.

Using that remote control and the free DJI Pilot app (Android/iOS), I can fly it wherever I want within a huge radius, viewing its

position on a map and info on altitude, speed, battery life and more. That's all to a range of up to 1.2 miles – although by law you must keep quadcopters within visual range at all times, so I'm not putting its limits to the test. Honest, officer.

And the camera? Well, while I can't check my footage out here 'in the field' (a park), it seems wonderful. I can record video in 4K, 1080p or 720p quality, or 12MP photos in JPEG or RAW, onto an onboard microSD card, tweaking settings on my tablet and tilting the camera between horizontal and straight down. I'll

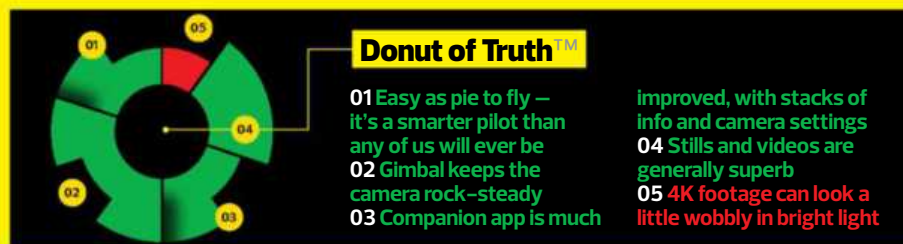
find out tonight how good the quality really is...

A three-axis gimbal keeps that camera level and pointed in my desired direction no matter which way I move the drone, while the wealth of sensors on board (GPS, GLONASS, compass, gyroscope, and an all-new down-facing camera) serve to keep this flying machine steady no matter how much wind assails it.

After 20 minutes of flying, the app bleeps to tell me the battery is running low. I land the drone easily, and look up to see a small crowd of onlookers. Luckily I wore a clean shirt today.



Even though the drone is hovering some 200m away and 120m above me, I can view a pristine 720p live feed on my tablet



Tech specs

Max flight speed
16m/s
Max ascent speed
5m/s
Max altitude
6000m
Max flight time
23 minutes
Camera 12MP
sensor, f/2.8 lens
Video 4096x2160
at 24/25fps;
3840x2160
at 24/25/30fps;
1080p/720p
at 24/25/30/
48/50/60fps
Weight 1.28kg



DAY 02

I check the previous day's footage and stills. It's mighty impressive. It was a sunny summer's day and the still pictures are crisp, detailed and noise-free.

The 1080p videos are lovely: smooth, silky 50fps motion as the drone glides over houses, trees and streets. And the 4K? Not so great. While the detail levels are astounding, the rolling shutter (the sensor captures each frame in a sweeping pass rather than in one go) makes things look wobbly – not what I was hoping for.

DAY 03

More 4K recording. Turns out you can mitigate the jelly effect by fixing the shutter speed to 50... but that's not always possible without massively overexposing everything. Sigh.

That aside, this thing is incredible. I've flown the Phantom 2 a lot and the 3 is better in every major respect: image quality, battery life, ease of use and safety. And the quality of the app's video streaming makes for a much more pleasant flying experience.

DAY 05

I do wish the battery life was longer. Despite 23 minutes being the longest Phantom flight time yet,

and the charger topping it up fairly swiftly, it does go by quickly – and if you've taken the drone out somewhere for the day, that's your lot until you can find a power socket. I guess that's why DJI sells extra batteries.

DAY 09

I'm feeling more confident than ever about flying this thing... time for an evening flight. As I glide like a guillemot through Bromley's sunset skies, flashes of lightning from a faraway thunderstorm are caught on camera. Nice.

Low-light footage and photos are a lot grainier than those taken in good light, however. The camera's Exmor R sensor is decent, but like a smartphone camera the Phantom 3 Pro does have its limits compared to bulkier cameras with larger sensors.

DAY 14

I'm going to really miss this clever bird. Sure, its 4K recording leaves a little to be desired, but otherwise it's a truly fantastic gadget – one that gives you a new perspective on the world and does so without making you jump through too many irritating hoops.

And if your bank balance doesn't stretch to it, go for the HD-shooting Advanced model, which is pretty much the same drone.

STUFF SAYS

A pro-level aerial filming tool that requires only amateur piloting skills to get dazzling results

★★★★★

Media hoard

Hello. I am *Stuff's* eerily convincing new humanoid AI sub-editor. Here are some reviews of the latest watching, listening and reading matter. You must now read them.

WATCH

Humans _DVD

Is there anything left for science fiction to say about robots? From Asimov to *Ex Machina*, it feels as though the Uncanny Valley has already been mined to exhaustion. But while its themes might be last-gen, this smart British reboot of the Swedish drama *Real Humans* has an Apple-like ability to make well-worn ideas feel shiny and new.

Set in a 'parallel present' London, *Humans* revolves around a suburban family who draft in the services of a 'synth' called Anita (played brilliantly by Gemma Chan) to help around the house. And they're not early adopters either – humanoid helpers are everywhere, acting as robot Taskbunnies

for their increasingly reliant (and unemployed) society.

Naturally, all is not quite as it seems with Anita. As we meet some of her fellow synths – including a care worker, a prostitute and two renegades on the run – it becomes clear that some of them might be a bit more sophisticated than your average Roomba.

Humans isn't the first drama to fire a warning shot about the dangers of AI. But like *Black Mirror*, its humdrum realism and fine cast show that this kind of tech, with all the 'big questions' it raises, has already taken its first steps into our homes.

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★



Run All Night

_Blu-ray, DVD, VOD

Liam Neeson's made his film again – but this time it's not called *Taken* and the people he wants to hurt really badly are American. This equitable approach to violence is to be applauded, but the "Don't mess with me" shtick is getting tiresome. We've had enough *Taken* sequels – and this is that in everything but name.

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★



While We're Young

_Blu-ray, DVD, VOD

Josh is 44, owns CDs and watches Netflix on his Apple TV. Jamie is 20-odd, only plays vinyl and uses a CRT TV to watch '80s horror movies on VHS. This slightly-too-stereotypical comedy of generational differences starts off well, but the gags give a little too much space to a study of authenticity.

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

LISTEN



Marks To Prove It

_The Maccabees

With the lout-rock of Kasabian on one side and the earnest Mumfords on the other, *Marks To Prove It* should've cemented The Maccabees' place as heirs to the Arctic Monkeys' throne. But rather than building on *Given To The Wild*, it feels too much like more of the same.

The title track barges down the doors and barrels along like it

escaped from the *GTTW* sessions but then things flatten, rising briefly for *Spit It Out* and *Something Like Happiness*. With even Glastonbury struggling for British headliners, this a missed opportunity for a band that a few years ago looked to be on the cusp of something great.

STUFF SAYS ★★☆☆☆



Another One

_Mac DeMarco

He flirts with cheese and he wears dungarees, but is there any substance behind DeMarco's kooky slacker persona? Maybe. The breakthrough album *Salad Days* had some luscious tunes but was a bit samey; this 25-minute follow-up is... well, more of the samey. And there's nothing as catchy as *Let Her Go* on this one.

STUFF SAYS ★★☆☆☆



Dark Black Makeup

_Radkey

Radkey are the only all-brother band to matter since Hanson. Pretty bold statement, we know. They play punk rock with huge fuzzy riffs, groovy bass and Danzig-like vocals. The resulting sound is body-moving in every way – but the production sounds a bit muddled on record, so live is the best way to experience it.

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

READ



How Music Got Free

_Stephen Witt

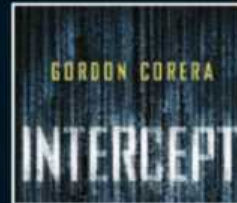
Everyone already knows how music got free. It was all Napster's fault, right? Wrong! At its core, *How Music Got Free* tells three different stories, which all come to a head at just the right/wrong time.

For a tale that deals largely in codecs and corporations (at least in the early stages) it's surprisingly witty, and

at times reads like an organised crime thriller... but the Michael Corleone of this story is a nerdy factory worker from North Carolina.

For anyone who remembers Audiogalaxy and Kazaa, *How Music Got Free* manages to be simultaneously eye-opening and nostalgic.

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★



Intercept

_Gordon Corera

The BBC's security correspondent gives a smart account of how espionage and computing grew up together, from the Enigma and Colossus machines of WW2 to the vast complexities of data processing that rule the modern world. Read it for a keener understanding of the NSA and the Edward Snowden affair.

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★



Wee Stories

_Limmy

A BAFTA-winning comedy writer and prolific Viner, Brian 'Limmy' Limond has written slightly too many tales for his debut book. You get the sense that many are vaguely autobiographical; but while they can get a little formulaic, there's a decent hit-rate of genuine lolz, and fans should definitely give this a look.

STUFF SAYS ★★☆☆☆

VESSEL MANIA

Not many people on this earth have experienced the thrills of 100mph on water. But for the crew of Vector Racing's V40 R powerboat, it's all part of the day job

Ask a roomful of motorists if they've ever hit 100mph on public roads, and many will sheepishly raise a hand. But put the same question to a group of boaters and you'll get a very different response. Hitting the century mark on water is a white-knuckle ride that should only be attempted by the most experienced and decorated pilots.

I'm about to find out if going at full throttle in the Martini-liveried Vector V40 R powerboat, with its twin 750bhp V10 engines, is the watery equivalent of driving a Bugatti Veyron at top speed. Nervous doesn't quite cut it.

WATER DYNAMIC

The Vector V40 R is by no means a run-of-the-mill speedboat. It's hand-crafted in Kelowna, Canada, using the latest materials and techniques. Fashioned from a concoction of Vinylester resin, super-tough E-glass, Kevlar and carbon fibre to reinforce

the most vulnerable parts, it's the perfect mix of strength and flexibility so the hull can absorb the sort of battering water inflicts at these speeds.

Arriving at a small harbour in Hampshire, at first it's difficult to spot the white, Martini-stickered V40 R because the sleek machine sits so low in the water. The only thing guiding my senses is the intermittent bark of the V10 engines. But, once spotted, it's difficult to ignore – the elongated nose, aggressively aerodynamic side strakes and multiple exhaust pipes at the rear signifying its speedy intent. If ever there were a supercar for the sea, this would be it.

The tie-in with Martini also seems a natural fit, as the Italian vermouth manufacturer has recently rekindled its love affair with motorsport after a long hiatus. "The livery is the perfect fit for our boat," explains Vector pilot Pete Dredge. "Not only is it

associated with the pinnacle of motorsport like Le Mans and Formula 1, but it also allows us access to the type of customer who might be interested in buying a boat like this."

Pete goes on to tell me that Vector Racing had a serious presence at the 2014 Monaco Grand Prix and certain well-heeled individuals were gifted a test drive in the US\$1 million vessel. It goes without saying, customer interest piqued once the throttle was opened for the first time.

EYES IN THE BACK OF ITS HULL

After clambering into the Vector V40 R through a small hatch in the roof, I'm presented with four Alcantara-clad bucket seats, a number of baffling pieces of navigational equipment and more switches and buttons than most airliners. Visibility is poor from inside: just a couple of Perspex screens act as windshields, while large side windows allow the pilot to see where he's going during turns.

The main equipment consists of four large screens that do everything from giving fuel and power readouts to providing navigational information. "Raymarine provides all the important equipment," explains Pete as he calls up a load of information that means very little to me. "All four screens are linked but can act separately in case of failure. We always know where we're going, even if we have technical issues," he adds. Well, knowing where you're



THE V40 R IN NUMBERS



\$1m

The customer price of the V40 R vessel



400 miles

The range of the boat at full speed



1mpg

The fuel consumption at full throttle



20G

Forces inflicted on the crew at max speed



125 mph

The V40 R's maximum speed





going is pretty important when blasting across open water at speeds in excess of 100mph.

Pete also nonchalantly drops into conversation that he still holds the record for the fastest lap around Britain. Forty hours of non-stop, full-throttle racing, a feat he puts down to the boat's cutting-edge gadgetry.

INDESTRUCTIBLE GOPROS

The boat also features one of the most sophisticated video set-ups in the world. A number of broadcast-quality cameras are situated inside and outside the vessel, so the crew can capture record attempts and high-octane racing in real time.

Alex Puczyniec, the chief photographer, explains that the cameras are encased in steel and then filled with nitrogen to prevent condensation build-up. "We've had situations where the cameras have experienced impacts that measure half a tonne. They've carried on filming without a hitch, like the strongest and most expensive GoPros you can imagine."

The cameras aren't just capturing footage for posterity: a reversing cam makes light work

of tight docking manoeuvres, while a live feed from the engine bay allows Pete and his team to keep an eye on mechanicals.

"One of the team is constantly checking the cameras when we're at full throttle," says Pete. "If we see smoke, condensation or a jet of fluids from that area, we know it's time to slow down and check everything is OK."

There's even an iPhone holder nestled in among the plethora of fire extinguishers and emergency breathing apparatus. According to the team, it can be linked into the sophisticated noise-cancelling comms system so the crew can

Fellow sailors stare on slack-jawed as more and more throttle is applied

make hands-free phone calls or even listen to a Spotify playlist (not highly recommended at top speed).

HIGH SEAS LUNACY

We slowly edge our way out of the harbour as Pete explains how I buckle the enormous lap harness and correctly fit my tiny, neck-mounted lifejacket. The twin V10 engines chug and splutter behind us as several cylinders are deactivated for emissions reasons. The bucket seats are surprisingly cossetting and I'm told that they feature a sophisticated air shock system that alleviates some of the bumps we're about to experience. According to the crew, it's not uncommon to experience 20Gs during some of the larger drops between waves.

The harbour opens up and Pete begins to apply more throttle – the remaining cylinders are called upon and the engines begin to roar in beautiful harmony. The bow lifts as the enormous propellers start putting the power down and the scenery out of the side windows suddenly speeds up. Fellow sailors in their weekend pleasure boats stare on slack-jawed as more and more throttle is applied.





Fast and furious

A mix of resin, E-glass, Kevlar and carbon fibre keeps the boat's hull stable and secure when buffeted by the waves at high speeds

THE TECH

1 HIGH-DEF VIDEO SYSTEM

There are switch-operated cameras with crystal glass fascias on the boat's exterior and inside the cockpit. The audio system records ambient noise as well as anything spoken over the comms system in broadcast quality: the ultimate memento.

2 RAYMARINE NAVIGATION SYSTEM

Four giant screens give an accurate GPS location, while menus show top speeds, fuel consumption, oil pressure and engine management options. The screens can also act as monitors so the crew can keep an eye on engine fires. Handy.

3 SHOCK-ABSORBING SEATS

Occupants can experience up to 20Gs when motoring at top speed – easily enough to break equipment and bones. The seats are designed to soak up the majority of bumps so Pete and his crew can race for hours at a time without any risk of injury.

"We're at 95mph," Pete shouts over the roar of the engines. It doesn't feel like we're speeding at all, as the craft practically wafts over the unpredictable Solent. I spot a small boat fully laden with people ahead but before I've had time to blink we've shot past them, soaring through the air.

Pete decides to repeat the run so we can get a little more speed; he pulls into a sharp right turn, the boat practically lying on its side as my seat lifts a few feet in the air. As I grab for the nearest handle, I can hear Pete chuckle over the intercom. He pulls harder on the steering wheel until it feels like we might flip over completely but the boat settles and the GPS-based speedometer tickles the 100mph mark.

"Not bad," says Pete as he navigates another group of tiny sailboats on this busy stretch of water. "If there was less traffic, we could go even faster."

We hit over 100mph on that final run, plenty enough for a landlubber like me. Next up for the V40 R? An attempt on the Poole-Cherbourg cross-Channel world record in late February 2015. Don't bet against the champagne corks popping once again. ●



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HOT BUY UPDATE 1		Samsung Galaxy S6 This is a new era for Samsung, with a smart upgrade that fixes not just things that were amiss in the Galaxy S5, but things that have plagued them for years. No plastic here: its front and back are super-tough Gorilla Glass 4, its sides aluminium. In terms of ergonomics and speaker quality, HTC still wins, but only just. And in the more important areas of camera performance, screen tech and raw power, the Galaxy S6 tramples its rivals. We just wish it had a microSD slot.	STUFF SAYS Samsung has proven its critics wrong – the Galaxy S6 is the new benchmark for flagship phones from ₹41,900 ★★★★★
NEW 2		OnePlus Two The OnePlus 2 massively undercuts the big-name competition while offering a phone experience pretty similar to them. Good software, good performance and a great battery life make this one of the easiest top-tier phones. OnePlus has done it again.	from ₹24,999 ★★★★★ BEST FOR VALUE FOR MONEY
NEW 3		Motorola Moto G (3rd Gen) Motorola continues its onslaught on budget smartphones with this excellent third iteration. With 4G and microSD support adding to its list of useful credentials, this looks to be a worthy successor to previous Moto Gs. Once again, brilliant VFM.	from ₹11,999 ★★★★★ BEST FOR RECESSION - BUSTING
4		Apple iPhone 6 With its slim, deeply attractive build and software overhaul, the iPhone 6 is the freshest-feeling iPhone in years. Its larger screen is big enough to be a useful improvement, with gorgeous colours, and this is Apple's best-ever battery.	from ₹53,500 ★★★★★
5		Motorola Moto Turbo It's the most complete package out there. It's smart, fast, and it's a handset crafted so beautifully, you'll find yourself picking it up often for no reason whatsoever sometimes. It's priced rather competitively too, given those impressive specs.	₹41,999 ★★★★★ BEST FOR BANG FOR THE BUCK
6		LG G4 The leather-clad LG G4 is a treat for those who want something that looks and feels a bit different. Its camera is incredibly powerful, giving you almost as much control as a DSLR, and the large screen is brilliant... but the battery life holds it back from the top.	₹51,500 ★★★★★
UPDATE 7		Samsung Galaxy S6 Edge The Edge, with its wraparound screen, is the ultimate money-no-object phone. It's techier and beefier than its brother, but it's also a good deal pricier. Its curvy USP may be more about style than anything else, but come on, it's pretty darned cool.	from ₹50,900 ★★★★★ BEST FOR CUTTING-EDGE GADGETEERS
UPDATE 8		Motorola Moto X Smart, fast and beautifully crafted: Motorola's software works together seamlessly to make your life that bit easier and the brilliant Bamboo option sets it apart from any other top-spec smartphone out there. This feels like a phone that's built for everyone.	from ₹21,999 ★★★★★ BEST FOR BUILD AND POWER
9		HTC One M8 After a few months at the top of the charts, the HTC One M8 is outdone by the brilliant new Moto X. But that doesn't make it any less capable as a smartphone, thanks to its all-metal build, Ultrapixel camera and beautiful Sense 6.0 skin. We still love you, M8.	₹49,990 ★★★★★
NEW 10		HTC One M9+ Having been beaten by the S6, the M9+ is the step forward that perhaps the M9 should have been. With a bigger, more pixel-packed screen and a fingerprint scanner it's welcome at the next-gen superphone party, and it's dressed just as smartly as before.	₹52,990 ★★★★★











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HOT BUY 1		Apple iPad Air 2 The iPad Air didn't really need to be thinner, but that doesn't mean 6.1mm isn't mighty impressive. This combines with reassuring weight and impeccable build quality to make this the most desirable tab on the planet. While the display is the same Retina resolution as before, clever screen tech brings the pixels closer to the surface, and the whole experience is even faster than before thanks to the new A8X chip. Basically it's the best tablet in the world made even better.	STUFF SAYS Thinner, lighter and mightier: Apple's iron-fisted reign at the top of the tablet charts continues unabated from ₹35,900 ★★★★★
2		Apple iPad Mini 2 With Retina Display The iPad Mini 3 is out now but all it adds is Touch ID. The good news is that the Mini 2 is now down to ₹21,900, which is frankly bargain-tastic. That's why the 'old' model makes it to our Top 10 – if you're after a mini-tablet of quality, your choice has just got easier.	from ₹21,900 ★★★★★
3		Samsung Galaxy Tab S 10.5 Samsung has blessed the Galaxy Tab with one of the best tablet screens we've ever laid eyes on, plus an impressive camera and some incredible stamina – but there are performance niggles and Apple's tablet app selection is still far superior.	₹38,900 ★★★★★ BEST FOR MAGAZINES AND MOVIES
4		Microsoft Surface Pro 3 At last, Microsoft has delivered on the promise of the tablet-cum-laptop hybrid. It proves there's space in the world for a design that's more productive than an iPad or Galaxy Note, but easier to hump around than a traditional laptop.	from ₹61,267* ★★★★★ BEST FOR USING ANYWHERE
5		Asus Transformer Book T100 This 10.1in tab-and-dock combo has enough grunt to run full Win 8.1 thanks to Intel's new Baytrail CPU. The 1366x768 screen is a good'un, with crisp text, great contrast and colours that pop, while dual-band Wi-Fi and a day-long battery are also welcome.	from ₹26,000 ★★★★★ BEST FOR WINDOWS LOYALISTS
6		Google Nexus 9 The design isn't as pristine, but this is a real Android contender to rival the iPads. You get the new Android 5.0 Lollipop software, bags of power and a super-sharp display. With 12 hours of video play and two front-facing speakers, it'll be a great film buddy.	from ₹28,900 ★★★★★
7		Samsung Galaxy Tab S 8.4 Samsung's superb screen, design, performance and a wider selection of optimised apps mean that against many other Android tabs it's still a winner. However, the new low price for the iPad Mini 2 makes the Galaxy Tab S 8.4 look rather pricey.	₹27,900 ★★★★★☆
8		Lenovo ThinkPad Tablet 2 You're a high flyer. You have work to do and neither iOS or Android has the oomph. You need the Windows 8 Pro-running Tablet 2. It lasts all day, is powerful enough for full-fat desktop software and with the keyboard dock it's an ultraportable laptop.	₹50,000 ★★★★★☆ BEST FOR DESKTOP VERSATILITY
9		Sony Xperia Tablet Z Sony just refuses to play by the rules. Stretching its stylish Xperia Z smartphone out to 10in should have made it thicker, but it hasn't; less crisply screened, but it isn't; and not waterproof, but it is. The price for this extreme engineering, however, is high.	₹30,990 ★★★★★☆ BEST FOR BATH-BASED TABLET FUN
10		Samsung Galaxy Note 10.1 (2014) The new 10.1 is fit to bursting with clever tricks, comes with the note-tastic S Pen and has a stunning 2560x1600 screen. But while we can forgive its tacky looks, minor performance glitches deny it that fifth star; we hope firmware updates will fix them.	₹24,990 ★★★★★☆



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<div>HOT BUY</div> <div>1</div>		<p>Bose SoundTouch 20 All this time, if you wanted a true multi-room system, you had no choice but to go the Sonos way. It took long enough, but we finally have an option, and one that you can buy at your friendly neighbourhood mall with zero effort. The Bose SoundTouch system wirelessly connects with your computer or NAS device and streams directly using your home's Wi-Fi network. Multiple SoundTouch devices mean you can control what you want playing in which room. We love it.</p>	<p>STUFF SAYS Infinite music in every room without the need for custom installers? Sign us up now, please ₹33,638 ★★★★★</p>
<div>2</div>		<p>Naim Mu-so Over ₹1lac for a wireless speaker?! Well yes, but what a wireless speaker it is. Naim has ploughed all of its high-end hi-fi experience into delivering a beautifully made, great-sounding device with AirPlay, streaming and aptX Bluetooth all on-board.</p>	<p>₹1,39,875 ★★★★★ BEST FOR ONE-BOX WI-FI HI-FI</p>
<div>NEW</div> <div>3</div>		<p>Bowers & Wilkins T7 The T7 is B&W's first attempt at a portable Bluetooth speaker, and its good looks and real hi-fi sound combine to make it a real winner. It's solid and easy to use, and has an attractive honeycomb structure that helps reduce cabinet vibrations.</p>	<p>₹29,900 ★★★★★</p>
<div>4</div>		<p>Cambridge Audio Go There are loads of very cheap Bluetooth speakers out there, but we reckon it's worth spending that little bit more to get something that's really good – and that's the Go. It sounds awesome, it's really nicely built and its battery lasts a massive 18 hours.</p>	<p>₹12,500 ★★★★★ BEST FOR PICNIC PARTIES</p>
<div>5</div>		<p>Bluesound Multiroom System Fancy a bit of Sonos-style multiroom but with better-than-CD-quality sound thrown in? You want a Bluesound. There are all-in-one speakers, adapters for your existing hi-fi, and a Vault that rips and stores all your CDs. All can handle high-resolution audio.</p>	<p>from ₹45,000 ★★★★★</p>
<div>6</div>		<p>Bang and Olufsen A9 It's big, it's round and it can look like anything you want it to if you put a front cover on it (we personally like the moon look). It also has a sound that's surprisingly good for a speaker of this shape. So essentially, this art has nice music.</p>	<p>₹2,49,990 ★★★★★ BEST FOR DECORATING YOUR LIVING ROOM</p>
<div>7</div>		<p>Libratone Zipp A fuzzy, cylindrical, colourful AirPlay dock that will deliver detailed, punchy 360° sound anywhere at all, thanks to a built-in battery that gives it four hours of outdoor life. Direct Wi-Fi skills free you from cables, routers and everything but the boogie.</p>	<p>₹29,990 ★★★★★ BEST FOR AL FRESCO PARTIES</p>
<div>8</div>		<p>Bowers & Wilkins Z2 The baby of B&W's AirPlay range is a little belter, and it adds a proper Lightning dock to Apple's wireless tech. It'll easily fill a small to medium-sized room with chunky bass, punchy beats and lovely, clear vocals. You'll buy it for the look, but love it for the sound.</p>	<p>₹31,500 ★★★★★</p>
<div>9</div>		<p>Cambridge Audio Minx Xi It might not look all that fancy, but the Minx Xi is like that micro system you had at uni, only it gobbles internet music rather than Rage Against The Machine CDs. Just add a pair of quality speakers (try Wharfedale Diamond 220s) and you've got a great hi-fi.</p>	<p>₹55,500 ★★★★★</p>
<div>10</div>		<p>Harman Kardon Aura Similar in looks to the Soundsticks it just replaced in this hallowed list of lists, the Harman Kardon Aura is a one-piece Bluetooth/Wi-Fi/Auxiliary speaker that looks the part and sounds pretty neat, too.</p>	<p>₹34,990 ★★★★★</p>

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**HOT
BUY****1****AKG K451**

They've actually been around a little while now, but what's put the K451 on-ears back on to our radar is a real world price of about ₹4999. For that money, they're unbeatable — awesomely agile and punchy sound wrapped up in a subtly stylish and foldable design. Add both standard and three-button control cables for maximising compatibility and there's practically no excuse for not getting brilliant sound from your phone.

STUFF SAYS

Fantastic sound and great portability at an almost unbeatable price. The perfect PMP upgrade

₹4999 ★★★★★

2**Bowers & Wilkins P5 Series 2**

Even the most demanding audio buff would find it hard to fault these — B&W have delivered a pair of premium on-ears that look, feel and sound exquisite. You control playback and volume with your iPhone, while feeling like a VIP guest at an intimate gig.

₹23,500

★★★★★

3**Philips Fidelio M1 MkII**

Your commute deserves a quality soundtrack, and second-generation Fidelio M1 headphones give you precisely that. There's oodles of detail to the sound and they punch harder than the Hulk. Beats and their ilk can't touch them.

₹10,999

★★★★★

4**SoundMagic E10S**

This is actually the third version of SoundMagic's awesome, affordable in-ears — not that you'd tell by looking. They sound even better, though: a little smoother and more refined, with tight, weighty bass. Plus there's now a mic and button for smartphone use.

₹2349

★★★★★

5**Sony MDR-EX650AP**

If you're prepared to pay a little extra for your in-ears, these Sonys are even better than the SoundMagics above. The sound is that bit bigger, a little more detailed and a little more grown-up, and if you don't like the brass finish, there's a silver version.

₹2490

★★★★★

6**Bose QuietComfort 25**

The best kind of silence is the kind you then fill with sweet, sweet music, and that's what the QuietComfort 25s give you. The active noise-cancelling quells office hubbub, air-conditioning and aeroplane hum, and delivers cracking sound in its place.

₹21,263

★★★★★

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THE WORLD**

7**Philips Fidelio M2BT**

Building on the award-winning M1BT, Philips has added NFC for its new wireless Bluetooth headphones and swapped the dark blue design for an understated black finish. The smart built-in controls and rich sound performance remain.

₹14,990

★★★★★

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WITH NO WIRES**

8**Audio-Technica M50x**

In their limited edition avatar, these extremely talented cans from AT are a tantalizing mix of style and sound. They'll handle almost every genre of music thrown at them. Tight bass, exceptional detail and a competitive price make these a superb package.

₹14,500

★★★★★

9**Sol Republic Master Tracks**

Really tough things are usually really ugly, which is why the lovely styling of the "virtually indestructible" Master Tracks headphones is so refreshing. Loud, punchy, fast and controlled, the sound is just as attractive as the design. Worth every rupee.

₹13,999

★★★★★

10**Sennheiser Momentum**

Classily styled, cushion-comfortable and smooth-sounding, the Momentums are the perfect pair of over-ears for the dapper man about town. New! An On-Ear version — smaller, cheaper at ₹14,990, and available in pink, blue, green and, um, ivory/brown.

₹24,990

★★★★★

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HOT BUY 1		Sony BDP-S490 A quite remarkable device, this Sony sounds great, has a wonderful picture in 2D or 3D and is crammed with on-demand content including Sony's own Movies Unlimited. It's also one of the most value-for-money Blu Ray players you can buy today, and highlights Sony's complete and total dominance over the technology. It does lack video upscaling, but you don't really need it yet, and the important thing is that it does 1080p extremely well.	STUFF SAYS The only choice for serious TV, movie or sport addicts, this Sony is the Blu-Ray player you need ₹13,990 ★★★★★
2		Roku 2 Roku's new mid-range offering is the most compelling yet. It is essentially identical to the Roku 3, just without the smart remote. With a customisable feed, Netflix, Now TV, Google Play, YouTube and all the UK catch-up services, it's unbiased, slick and simple.	₹6399 ★★★★★
3		Yamaha YSP-2500 If your only requirement for a soundbar is that it should sound better than your telly, almost any will do; but if you want one that will fool your ears into thinking they're surrounded by actual speakers, you want the amazingly clever Yamaha YSP-2500.	₹1,09,990 ★★★★★
4		Sony BDV-N990 The biggest bargain in home cinema, the Blu-ray -packing N990 has a massive spec but a micro price. Picture and sound are excellent, Sony's smart services are immense and its stylish curves and touch-sensitive controls add a dash of premium quality. Brilliant.	₹34,990* ★★★★★ BEST FOR AWESOME ALL-IN-ONE VALUE
5		BenQ W1400 What's better than <i>Inception</i> ? <i>Inception</i> on a 300in screen, that's what. How do you get a 300in screen in your house? You buy the BenQ W1400. If your lounge isn't quite that big it can also project an 84in image from just 2m away. Try finding an 84in TV for ₹1.5lac.	₹1,50,000 ★★★★★
6		Panasonic DMP-BDT220 It's not the most extravagantly specified Blu-ray player around (though Panasonic's remote-control app is a joy), but the BDT220 has the sort of picture- and sound quality to make its price look like a misprint. And that's our favourite kind of mistake.	₹13,990 ★★★★★ BEST FOR BLU-RAY ON A BUDGET
7		Marantz UD7007 Pricey like an Aston Martin is pricey and about as satisfying to own, this Marantz can play any disc you like, streams music at high-def resolutions and can withstand an earthquake. If you really, really take movies and music seriously, this is your player.	₹69,900 ★★★★★ BEST FOR THE ULTIMATE IN QUALITY
8		Sonos Playbar A characteristically Sonos take on the soundbar, the Playbar hooks up to your TV via its single optical input and fills your room with a big, detailed sound. And as with all Sonos kit, it can stream your own music files and more as part of a multiroom system.	₹60,000* ★★★★★ BEST FOR STREAMING MUSIC
9		B&W Panorama 2 Let's put aside the gimmicks for a second and consider what's most important: the sound. That's where the Panorama 2 wins. You get a direct and focused sound, clear dialogue and beautiful design and build, although this is all very expensive.	₹2,11,500 ★★★★★ BEST FOR PREMIUM SOUND
10		Microsoft Xbox 360 The Xbox One will be more media-centric than ever before, but looks like it'll require a post-launch firmware update to really shine. We'll be testing the One's media skills soon, but for now the 360 with its Windows Media Server is still a slick streamer.	from ₹15,990 ★★★★★ BEST FOR MULTIMEDIA FUN



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HOT BUY	1		LG 55EC930T Self-illuminating OLED (organic light-emitting diode) screens used to be full of potential but were criminally expensive. No longer. Behold this curved LG marvel which, for the most part, is no thicker than a pane of glass and verging on affordable. The levels of contrast and dynamism are a revelation. No, it's not 4K. But when 1080p Full HD looks this good, you won't be counting pixels – and it'll be some time before you'll be able to feed your TV a 4K-heavy diet anyway.	STUFF SAYS 4K and millions of pixels might be the future, but this LG OLED is the most amazing TV of right now ₹3,59,900 ★★★★★
UPDATE	2		Samsung UA65JU6470U Finally, a 4K TV that can be recommended without hesitation, plus it's just as good as a Full HD TV when playing 1080p stuff. Chuck in all of Samsung's usual smart TV whizzbang, remove the silly motion-sensing controls and you've got a real star.	₹3,14,900 ★★★★★
UPDATE	3		Samsung UA55JS9000K Each of its 8.3million pixels is put to good use, filling the screen's handsome real estate with pin-sharp outlines, potent contrast and eye-popping colours. Sound-wise, it's way more powerful than bog-standard flatscreens. Worth the pretty paise? Oh yes.	₹3,14,900 ★★★★★
	4		Sony KDL-50W800B 4K a bit too new-fangled (or pricey) for you? How about a 50in edge-lit LED LCD with all of Sony's smart features for just over a lakh? It's not even like picture quality's been sacrificed – this is an absolute corker of a telly in every way.	₹1,12,900 ★★★★★ BEST FOR AFFORDABLE BRILLIANCE
	5		LG 55UF950T This telly comes to life in a flash, and menus don't waste time loading – it's a glossy double-page advert for pixel-packing 4K technology. The punchy palette revels in dazzling hues, deep blacks and Essex-smile whites, and the sound is solid.	₹2,94,900 ★★★★☆
UPDATE	6		Sony KDL-32W700B There's nothing wrong with sticking with a smaller TV, but you should still make sure you pick a good 'un. This 32in Sony is the best, in terms of both picture performance and features, which include 1080p resolution and all the smart stuff you can handle.	₹42,900 ★★★★★ BEST FOR A SMALLER SCREEN
	7		Sony KD-55X8500B If you want to jump on the 4K bandwagon with Sony you could go for the wedge-shaped X9, which is great, but we'd suggest that this slimmer, less intrusive 'entry-level' option is an even better buy. It's still got all the smart stuff and great performance.	₹2,34,900 ★★★★☆
	8		LG 42LB750T The performance is very good, but what makes this 42in LG really special is its webOS user interface, which treats all sources, apps, recordings and live broadcasts equally, getting you to the content you want to watch quicker. And isn't that what a TV is for?	₹81,900 ★★★★☆
	9		Bang & Olufsen BeoVision Avant 55 That price tag is pretty high. Plus, you'll have to shell out extra for the remote and mesmerising TV stand. But then again, this is one of the classiest TVs that money can buy. The fine HD picture, excellent audio and overall looks is just, sheer class.	₹9,99,990 ★★★★☆
	10		Panasonic TH-42AS610 It's not the prettiest, it's not the smartest, and with just two HDMI inputs, it's not the most connected TV about, but there's a really simple, intuitive OS pulling the strings here – and a performance that's very strong given the price and 42in size.	₹59,900 ★★★★☆

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HOME COMPUTERS

HOT BUY	1		Apple iMac Other than regular power upgrades and a bit of slimming, the iMac has been largely unchanged for a while, but it does now run Apple's lovely Yosemite OS. There's also now a more affordable version and an eye-wateringly expensive 4K model.	from ₹91,900 ★★★★★	BEST FOR ALL-ROUND BRILLIANCE
	2		Apple Mac Mini This tiny PC is still one of the most capable devices in the size group, and is intelligently priced as well. You are going to need to plug in the keyboard, mouse and monitor, but it's a convenient little device that you could slip into your backpack if you need to.	from ₹36,990 ★★★★★	BEST FOR COMPACT POWER
	3		Alienware X51 (2014) The X51 hasn't changed a huge amount, but the wee size matched with powerful components make it perfectly suited to HD gaming. Steam Machines are going to liven this market up but right now it's the best balance of power and form in PC land.	₹ tba ★★★★★	
	4		Raspberry Pi Model B+ It's a fully functioning PC that's barely bigger than a credit card, and now it's a little more flexible than before thanks to two extra USB ports and better power management. Don't expect a 'proper' computer – this is for tinkers after a fun new project.	from ₹2875 ★★★★☆	
	5		Lenovo IdeaCentre A720 The A720's stand mechanism allows that lumbering 27in screen to lie flat, which is ideal for multi-user access to its 10-point multitouch. A quad-core i7 processor gives it plenty of power although the peripherals don't feel quite as well made as we'd like.	from ₹99,990 ★★★★☆	

GAMES CONSOLES

HOT BUY	1		Sony PlayStation 4 It may not quite be the finished article, but this is the best games machine on the planet. It has whisper-quiet operation, a sleek form and bags of power, with full 1080p on all titles and not a whiff of lag. When proper media streaming arrives, it'll be unstoppable.	₹39,990 ★★★★★	
	2		Microsoft Xbox One This is very different to the Xbox One of 2013. Most significantly, the unpopular Kinect feature is now out of the deal, allowing Microsoft to drop the price and releasing enough extra power for developers to make their games look and play better.	₹39,990 ★★★★★	
	3		Microsoft Xbox 360 Yes, it's been succeeded by the One, but the years have been kind to the 360. With an amazing catalogue of recent games that use its full potential, brilliant media streaming skills and a low, low price it's impossible not to recommend it to cash-strapped gamers.	from ₹15,990 ★★★★★	BEST FOR BUDGET GAMING
	4		Sony PlayStation 3 The PS3 has been around a while but, like the Xbox 360, that just means it has plenty of great games. Online gaming via PlayStation Network is still brilliant and still free, and it's worth buying for its Blu-ray and media streaming alone.	from ₹16,990 ★★★★★	
	5		Nintendo 3DS XL The 3D effect may be a gimmick that hasn't paid off, but put that to one side and the 3DS is still the king of the portable games machines. The XL is the biggest version yet, and there's now a massive catalogue of inventive dual-screen games to play.	₹22,990 ★★★★☆	

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PROSUMER CAMS

HOT BUY	1		Olympus OM-D E-M1 The Olympus flagship is armed with the same excellent 16.3MP sensor as its predecessor the E-M5, but has an improved autofocus system, a startlingly good electronic viewfinder and masses of direct controls. Also look out for the E-M10.	₹1,05,000 (body only) ★★★★★	
	2		Canon EOS 700D Look, it's a new Canon at No2. No, wait, it's the old one. Actually, it's kind of both. The 700D is a minor upgrade over the 650D, keeping its 18MP sensor, flip-out touchscreen and autofocus during video and adding little beyond a new kit lens. Still great, though.	₹43,995 (body only) ★★★★★	BEST FOR ALL-ROUND VALUE
	3		Sony A6000 Sony's new system camera may be tiny but it packs a big photographic punch. There may be no optical image stabilisation but the incredible speed and accuracy of the A6000's autofocus is a real highlight, as is its large, clear electronic viewfinder.	₹40,990 (body only) ★★★★★	
	4		Nikon D810 The top-end Nikon D810 is a monster camera. Its image quality and performance are hard to fault – if you're a serious photographer willing to stump up the cash then it's a fantastic buy. However, there are some features missing, such as 4K video and Wi-Fi.	₹1,99,950 (body only) ★★★★★	
	5		Sony A7R We love this camera. It's lightweight but tough and delivers results that outstrip pretty much any other compact system camera on the market. It has a huge full-frame 36.4MP sensor and noise-suppression. Your wallet might weep, but your photo album will sing.	₹1,24,990 (body only) ★★★★★	

COMPACT CAMERAS

HOT BUY	1		Sony DSC-HX60 2014's HX60 isn't a huge departure from its predecessor in terms of its build quality, ease of use, specifications and 30x zoom lens – all of which are excellent. What it does add is NFC and a newer Bionz X processor, making it a slightly nipper performer.	₹22,990 ★★★★★	
	2		Sony DSC-RX100 III If you're looking for the best tiny snapper around, this is it. Excellent image quality, fast autofocus, a useful electronic viewfinder and professional video recording, all squeezed into a truly teeny package that'll fit into your jeans pocket. We're smitten.	₹54,990 ★★★★★	
	3		Fujifilm FinePix X100S Fujifilm's souped up its fixed-lens retro shooter, with faster focusing and a big APS-C sensor. It's not all new, though, keeping the 35mm-equivalent f/2 lens and hybrid viewfinder from the X100. A less retro version with black finish is now available too.	₹74,999 ★★★★★	
	4		Canon PowerShot G16 The G16 packs a lot into its sturdy body: optical viewfinder, loads of manual controls and an f1.8-2.8, 28-140mm (equivalent) zoom lens. Upgrades over the G15 include Wi-Fi and faster burst shooting of up to 12fps, while image quality is as good as ever.	₹31,995 ★★★★★	
	5		Nikon Coolpix AW120 The ultimate rugged camera: almost indestructible, and fit for temperatures as low as -10°C, it will even survive a rinse cycle in your dishwasher. The AW120 also takes lovely pictures and impressive video in both good lighting and dimmer conditions.	₹17,950 ★★★★★	BEST FOR EXTREME EXPLOITS

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HOT BUY 1 	Apple MacBook Pro 13in (2015) Apple hasn't changed too many parts of the MacBook Pro for 2015. There's a fancy new trackpad and the latest generation of Intel CPUs, which deliver better stamina as well as a chunk more power. This is an incremental upgrade, but given how good the Pro already was, that's more than enough to keep it right at the top of the laptop honours list. If you need power as well as stamina and portability, this is one of the best laptops money can buy.	STUFF SAYS If it ain't broke... it hasn't radically changed, but the Pro's performance and trackpad are top of its class from ₹94,900 ★★★★★
2 	Asus ZenBook UX305 Asus knows what it's doing. It knows that the Apple MacBook Air laptops are treading water and the ZenBook UX305 is pretty much everything the 2015 Air should have been, with its fetching aluminium design and as good a display as any ₹1 lac laptop.	from ₹49,999 ★★★★★
3 	Microsoft Surface Pro 3 At last, Microsoft has delivered on the promise of the tablet-cum-laptop hybrid. It proves there's space in the world for a design that's more productive than an iPad or Galaxy Note, but easier to hump around than a traditional laptop.	from ₹61,267* ★★★★★ BEST FOR USING ANYWHERE
4 	Alienware 17 A brute of a machine in every way, the Alienware 17 weighs as much as four MacBook Airs and probably frags harder than 10 of them. Core i7 Haswell processor at 3.4GHz, Nvidia GeForce graphics, up to 32GB of RAM... Our trigger finger's already itching.	from ₹1,42,390 ★★★★★ BEST FOR SERIOUS GAMERS
5 	Apple MacBook (2015) This is no 'Air', nor 'Pro': a clear sign that this is what Apple sees as the future of the ultraportable laptop. And it's certainly very desirable: a 12in lean machine with a superb screen and haptic touchpad. However, the lack of ports can be frustrating.	from ₹72,900 ★★★★★
6 	Apple MacBook Air 13in (2015) Apple is scraping by with pretty much the same Air design as before. You get a new processor, new connectors and slightly improved battery life, but still no Retina screen. However, if a portable road warrior is what you're after, this is still a great choice.	from ₹86,900 ★★★★★☆
7 	Asus Zenbook UX302 Asus has done a wonderful job of creating an ultra-slim laptop that's as far removed from Apple's influence as possible, while maintaining a stylish and unique aesthetic. The 13.3in display is razor-sharp and colourful – this is our favourite Ultrabook.	₹99,999 ★★★★★☆
8 	Lenovo Yoga Pro 3 The third entry in the Yoga Pro line refines the laptop/tablet hybrid design with a power-sipping new Intel Core M processor plus slimness and style to make even the MacBook Air look worried. And you can stand it up like a tent. If you want.	₹1,14,990 ★★★★★☆
9 	Acer C720 Chromebook Bargain Chromebooks are everywhere right now, but the C720 stands out even so. It's well made, well specced (for a Chromebook) and crucially, has proper ports: HDMI, USB3.0 and SD are all here. The HP at No.7 is prettier, but the Acer's the one we'd buy.	₹22,990 ★★★★★☆
10 	Acer Aspire S7 The Aspire S7 is almost the perfect Ultrabook – it matches the MacBook Air for weight, beats it for slimness by 6mm, and has a gorgeous 1920x1080 touch-friendly screen. Only its battery, which lasted a mere 5hrs on test, prevents it getting that fifth star.	₹1,02,999 ★★★★★☆ BEST FOR TOUCHY-FEELY WINDOWS 8



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**HOT
BUY****1****The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt** PS4/PC/Xbox One

Weighing up the +12 damage of one sword with the +15% critical chance of another is tedious work, and there are issues with the AI's pathfinding that means your horse seems to get stuck behind just about anything and everything all the flaming time, but these are minor flaws in a game that is otherwise something of a fantasy masterpiece. Only the most RPG-phobic should avoid it – everyone else will find *The Witcher 3* to be one of the finest games of recent memory.

STUFF SAYS

Bigger than Skyrim and with more character, *The Witcher 3* is a new RPG benchmark

★★★★★

2**Bloodborne** PS4

Bloodborne is a tricky beast. It's not for everyone. But if you're looking for something a little different, something that'll really challenge and involve you a bit more than your average eight-hour shoot-a-thon, you need to check it out.

★★★★★

3**Far Cry 4** PC/PS3/Xbox 360/PS4/Xbox One

Another holiday doesn't quite go to plan in Ubisoft's latest open-world adventure, now with added elephants. *Far Cry 4* is a glorious timesink. The principle attraction is most certainly its campaign, which is easily the best thing about it.

★★★★★

4**Grand Theft Auto V** PS3/PS4/Xbox One/Xbox 360

There's a lot about *Grand Theft Auto 5* that remains unchanged, but on the new-gen machines, it's a fantastic experience like never before. The crazy world of Los Santos offers enough thrills to keep gamers coming back for more and more.

★★★★★

5**The Last Of Us Remastered** PS3/PS4

Now remastered for PS4, this is the best zombie-apocalypse game ever. It looks magnificent and plays even better, with a moving story and frights aplenty. It's tough... but then a real-life zombie apocalypse would be. Think of this as essential prep.

★★★★★

**BEST FOR
ZOMBIFIED
HORROR****6****Forza Horizon 2** Xbox One

This is everything an open-world driving game should be. There's loads to do and it captures the feeling of driving very fast better than any other racing game, to the point where *Forza Horizon 2* could soon eclipse its older brother once and for all.

★★★★★

7**Destiny** PS4/Xbox One

This isn't for everyone, and those hoping for an epic *Halo*-style campaign may be disappointed. But in every other way, *Destiny* is on a bigger, far more multiplayer level, and with the added addictive quest for loot like *Diablo* – an irresistible combination.

★★★★★

8**FIFA 15** PS4/Xbox One

If *FIFA 14* was Barcelona's tiki-taka – death by 1000 passes – then *FIFA 15* is Germany's more explosive World-Cup-winning evolution of it. Harder, faster and stronger: this is a better reflection of modern football than ever before.

★★★★★

9**Dying Light** PC/PS4/Xbox One

Far Cry 3 x *Shadow of Mordor* x *Dead Island* = a bloody enjoyable zombie romp. Jumping around rooftops, playing co-op and bludgeoning zombies is all fun. A solid survival horror in an open-world setting, and we've enjoyed the undead company.

★★★★☆

10**Hotline Miami 2: Wrong Number** PC/PS3/PS4/PS Vita

Bigger and perhaps a little less focused than its predecessor, with the same bloody, brutal and brilliantly retro gameplay makes it a vital play. A subtle – if occasionally flawed – evolution of a winning formula that'll please old fans and win new ones.

★★★★☆

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HOT BUY 1		Pebble Steel Unveiled at CES 2014, the Steel keeps the straightforward looks, crisp display and five-day battery life that helped the standard Pebble win our hearts. But it holds more RAM, apps and customisable faces this time, and swaps the plastic for either a 'Steel' silver or matte black stylish suit, making it look and feel more like an actual watch. The Steel goes beyond the gimmicks and into the world of real-world wearable tech. Pop it on your wristwear wish-list.	STUFF SAYS The best smartwatch money can buy... and the original plastic Pebble is still available for a bit less ₹17,500 ★★★★★
2		Garmin Vivosmart The Vivosmart is definitely one of the most ergonomic and stylish activity trackers around. Besides tracking your daily routine and nudging you towards a better lifestyle, it also lets you know of any notifications from your smartphone through vibrations. Nifty!	₹12,990 ★★★★★ BEST FOR ACCURACY AND FITNESS
3		Fitbit Flex The Flex delivers all of Fitbit's activity-tracking smarts but in a form factor that's less fiddly than its belt-clip counterparts. It's packed with Bluetooth, NFC, vibratamotor and an LED display. See also the new Fitbit Charge, with a full display.	₹9499 ★★★★★ BEST FOR TRACKING YOUR LIFE
4		GOQii Band A fitness band, it's propriety app and a fitness and habit expert who coaches you to acheive your ideal lifestyle is what you'll be signing onto with GOQii. Get a hands-on idea of your progress via collected physical data, complete with statistical analysis.	from ₹3999 ★★★★★
5		Motorola Moto 360 With its iconic, head-turning design, this could be the first wearable you will want to wear. The Moto 360's our favourite and most comfortable Android Wear watch so far, but the battery might make you anxious and it's a few specs short of brilliance.	₹17,999 ★★★★★
6		Sony SmartWatch 3 The Sony SmartWatch 3 has the brains of a Google watch, coupled with GPS skills for fitness fans, with plenty of power and decent battery life. A waterproof build and GPS powers make this the best fitness smartwatch around.	₹19,990 ★★★★★☆
7		Roku Streaming Stick 'Streaming Stick' tells you all you need to know, really: this is a stick, and it streams. It streams plenty, too. And unlike Chromecast, it's also a dab hand with your own video and music files. Lovely stuff.	₹4395 ★★★★★☆
8		Misfit Shine The Shine's minimalist exterior redefines fitness trackers. Former Apple CEO and Misfit co-founder John Sculley may have something to do with that. Plus, its fitness and sleep monitoring skills are solid, and a button cell means no recharging. Perfect.	₹9990 ★★★★★☆
9		Google Chromecast This USB memory-stick-sized cord-cutter is compatible with YouTube, Google Play movies and more: a cheap, simple way of getting web-sourced movies and shows onto your living-room TV.	₹2999 ★★★★★☆
10		Samsung Gear Fit The Gear Fit is small, light and relatively less intrusive, making it the better choice for people who don't care about the extra bells and whistles, or for active types who would find the design of the larger watches unwieldy.	₹8159 ★★★★★☆

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NEXT BIG THING?



DRONE TOURISM

D

on't tell me! I know this. Drone must be a town in... Norway?

Surely it would be the capital of the UAV? While geography jokes might well be the highest form of wit, this is no time to gad about. We're talking here about the future of holiday travel. A future where you strap on a VR headset, choose a destination, then soar over it in real time like a paragliding tourist. A video feed gives you a bird's-eye view of a castle, while you look down your beak at the miserable Spice Jet hordes below. First Class is now your lovely, comfy sofa.

Sounds romantic. I suppose you follow it up with a candlelit dinner over Skype?

That's not a bad idea. It'd halve the washing up for a start. But no, this isn't intended to replace honeymoon trips to Florence. Researchers from the University of Vienna and tourism start-up InformAmuse see it as an aid for those who can't travel, whether for reasons of injury, disability or cost. They've already prototyped a system for remote-controlling drones via a VR headset. And as they rightly point out, livestreamed virtual tours are a lot more earth-friendly than CO₂-spewing jets.

All sounds a bit DJI in the sky to me...

A fine pun, but you'll be surprised to know that the basic concept is already here, albeit in pre-recorded, 2D form. This project's lead says he's only a year away from a public version that could see you flying over Sicily's Valley of the Temples from a pub in Temple Valley, Hampshire. There are issues to overcome, not least the restrictive no-fly zones over many of the world's biggest tourist sites. But if life's taught us anything, it's that cool technology always finds a way. Now, where's that Google Cardboard clone?

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